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THE SPECTATOR

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Administration: No G-Road Party on Class & Charter Day

by Kerry Q. Coughlin '11
News Writer

There will be no party at Griffin Road on this year's Class & Charter Day. This announcement, much to many students' dismay, came in the all campus e-mail of the Student Assembly (SA) minutes from April 6.

The party at the Griffin Road apartment complex (G-Road) has been occurring for five or six years and involves an outdoor venue for what is essentially a free-for-all of alcohol consumption to celebrate the year's last day of classes.

Many faculty, staff, and students have been expressing concern over the G-Road party for some time. According to the SA minutes, last year, there were eight alcohol-related EMT calls on Class & Charter Day, four of these resulting in hospital transport. In addition, G-Road is a residential road, and students have been known to wander onto private property during Class & Charter Day.

Dean of Students Nancy Thompson said that the G-Road party has "gotten completely out of control." Unlike officially recognized parties hosted in social spaces, at the G-Road party, "it is unclear who has provided alcohol and there is no control over who is served."

"Every year the neighbors are disrupted in a variety of unacceptable ways," said Thompson. Professor Karen Brewer of the chemistry department has lived near the Griffin Road apartments for nearly eleven years. "I know that my neighbors and I have dealt with increasing noise and more litter in our yards, along with vomiting on our property or the street and students trespassing in our yards with some of them relieving themselves in full view of my children," she said. Beyond these inconveniences and irritations, Brewer added, "I have been very worried about students' safety as they walk in the road with cars having to weave between them and the students who are obviously too inebriated to walk by themselves."

While some students are upset over the cancellation, many have already come to accept the administration's decision. "I can understand the administration's unwillingness to let the festivities go unchecked, but it's sad they have to cancel G-Road altogether, instead of emphasizing responsible choices," said Alden Masters '11.

The administration is supportive of finding an alternative to the G-Road party on Class & Charter Day. "This is not a cancellation of Class & Charter Day, just of the dangerous and disruptive event that has occurred on Griffin Road," said Thompson. Students are encouraged to attend the awards ceremony in the Chapel, the all-campus picnic, and Hamtrek and its accompanying games and events. In addition, SA is working on alternative locations for a Class & Charter Day party and is examining possibilities such as a Battle of the Bands.

PHOTO BY LEXI NISITA '12

The lawns and parking lots of the Griffin Road apartments will not play host to the usual big party on this year's Class & Charter Day, Friday, May 8, 2009.

"Au Naturel" Alums to Screen New Documentary at Hamilton

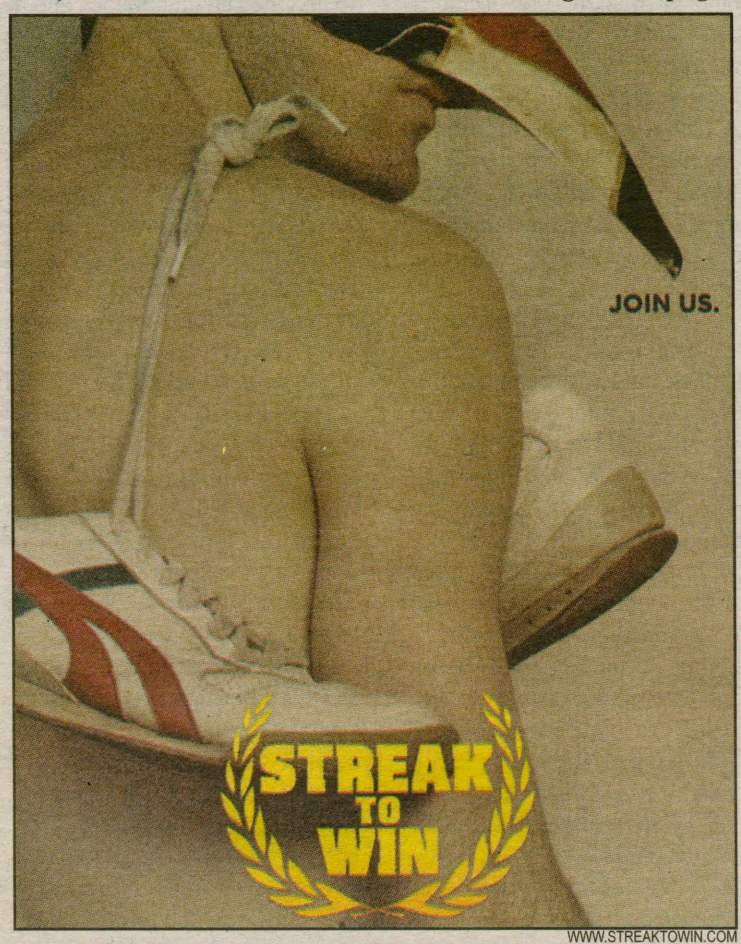
by Kate Moore '12
News Writer

When accepted students overwhelm the campus for Accepted Students' Day, the question they will all be asking is "What makes Hamilton special?" The answer, of course, is naked people. Started in 2002 as a way to make the Hamilton name legend, the Varsity Streaking Team has been immortalizing the College ever since. A glorious tribute to the team and all it has accomplished has been compiled as a documentary of the Streak to Win NESCAC Championship of 2004.

The team began with a group of friends who wanted to shirk the traditional legacies of their parents' fraternities and sororities; they wanted to find a different claim to fame. The result was an increasingly organized club of athletic nudists, who trained sporadically throughout the year. Unofficially condoned by previous administrations, the team was initially content to play home games, triumphing at various campus locations such as Burke Library. Over time, team members sought confrontation on a larger scale and began wearing their birthday suits to various events and functions, such as freshman orientation.

Finally, in fall 2004, the team decided it was no longer content playing home games. Over fall break, the 20 odd members loaded into an RV and headed out to face off against other NESCAC schools. Each athlete was inspired by his

see ***Streaking Movie,*** *page 3*



Streak to Win **will premiere at Hamilton on April 24, 2009.**

Ex-Prisoner Seeks to Rebuild Somalia

by Alicia Wright '10
News Writer

Raised in a nomadic culture along the Western coast of Africa, Suleiman Nuh Ali does not remember a time when his family lived in one place more than a month. Like his ever-changing homes in Somalia, Ali has transitioned through multiple identities: Somali nomad, Allegheny College student, government architect, political prisoner, and finally, peacemaker. Ali visited campus this past Tuesday evening to present a talk on the past, present, and future of Somali.

Mike Debraggio, executive director of communications in the communications and development department, knew Ali personally during his time working at Allegheny College. By inviting Ali to campus to speak with students, Debraggio said, "I hope students get a deeper understanding of Somalia than what they read in the media, and the effect one man can have on his nation."

In the mid-sixties, Ali left his nomadic life in Somalia to pursue his education at Alleghany College in Pennsylvania. He moved from Alleghany College to Howard University, where he completed a degree in architecture and urban planning. From Howard, Ali returned to Somalia to work as the chief architect for the Somalia National Housing Agency, serving as a consultant with the U.S. Agency for International Development to design mobile health care facilities for the nomads. During his work on this project in 1982, the Somali secret police arrested Ali.

For six years, Ali served time in solitary confinement. Then, in February 1988, Ali and seven other prisoners were tried for treason punishable by death by firing squad. After nights of torture, as detailed through a letter smuggled out of the prison, Ali finally signed a confession authored by the authorities. As Ali wrote, "I told them, in short, to write a confession how they like it and I will sign where and when they wanted. And I did… The firing squad is better than the torture."

Ali and the other prisoners' trial gained international attention, and although the prisoners were found guilty, the pressure put on then Somali President Siad Barre caused authorities to reduce the penalty from death to 24 years in

see ***Somali Speaker,*** *page 2*

INSIDE

NEWS: StandUp for Peace 3
OPINION: Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Contest 6
FEATURES: Naomi Klein's Shock Doctrine 12
SPORTS: Men's Tennis 20

Hamilton Teams Hiking to Help Prevent AIDS

by Michelle Franco '11
News Writer

As the weather gets warmer and students at Hamilton College begin to spend more time outside, the campus will host an annual "hike" to raise funds to benefit the AIDS Community Resources (ACR) of the Mohawk Valley. This year's AIDS Hike for Life, sponsored by the class of 2009, will take place on Sunday, April 26, rain or shine. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and the event begins at 11 a.m.

The hike began 11 years ago in response to the increasing demand for youth AIDS prevention services. "We needed more money to meet the demand for our services in the local community. The government spends 96 percent of AIDS money on people who are already infected and only 4 percent on prevention," explained Wil Murtaugh, the Director of Special Projects and Development for the ACR.

In past years, teams and individuals from both Hamilton College and the local community have raised money and completed the 5k walk/run for the cause. Approximately 400 to 500 people participate each year, about 40 percent of which are members of the Hamilton community. Although the ACR encourages all participants to raise at least $25, each participant or team sets a fundraising goal, and there are incentives such as t-shirts and gift cards that are offered for different levels of funds raised. "In 10 years the event has raised a total of $389,551, and last year the event raised $64,812," stated Murtaugh. Teams also have the opportunity to win a number of awards including those for the top fundraising team, the team that is most creative and the largest team. At the time this article was written, 31 teams had registered for the event online.

Even in the current economic situation, the event is still expected to be successful. "This year we are hoping to raise $75,000," said Murtaugh. "That's a huge goal, considering that many 'not for profits' are not making their goals." Additionally, all of the funds that are raised will stay in the Mohawk Valley to support the ACR's Adolescent Prevention Programs (Teen AIDS Task Force & LGBTQ Youth Safety Project) and Client Support Services.

Hamilton College has been chosen to host the event for many reasons. "There has always been terrific support for this cause by young people. They understand the threat, and the Hamilton College campus is amazingly supportive," explained Murtaugh. "It also happens to be one of the most beautiful places you could hold a walk/run in the Mohawk Valley."

Registration is online for those who want to participate at AIDSwalkCNY.com or at the event, and all runners must preregister. Popcorn, hot dogs and Starbucks coffee will be available free to all participants.

SA Update

Considering a social honor code

by Eve Denton '12
Student Assembly Correspondent

Student Assembly has decided that due to the numerous discussions already taking place on campus about the controversy surrounding Mexican Night, they will not be issuing a statement regarding the events. Instead, they took the opportunity at the April 13 meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a social honor code at Hamilton, similar to the ones that exist at many other schools. The point of this would be to create guidelines, while at the same time ensuring that free speech rights are protected.

A member raised the point that writing an official social code could make students uncomfortable, and although incoming classes may not notice its effects, a code could make the current situation more divisive than it already is. Another member felt that while a social honor code may theoretically work, punishments would be hard to enforce. A member expressed concern that while it may initially be created due to concerns over a social event, it could eventually encompass other aspects of Hamilton life, such as the streaking team. It would be difficult to create a social code which would leave all students happy.

The intense reaction to the current situation is due, in part, to a build up of emotions from other events that have happened at Hamilton in the past. One Student Council member expressed approval that the community is continuing the discussion about the events and not simply letting them go. The possibility of bringing in a third-party arbitrator with no connection to the college was raised.

Student Assembly is interested in forming an ad hoc committee to determine how to further handle this issue. Those interested in joining should e-mail SA@hamilton.edu.

Technology:

Spots are filling up for the Educause Center for Applied Research (ECAR) survey. ECAR is a research center that helps educational institutions make informed decisions regarding the technology on their campuses. Students still interested in participating should sign up online. Free pizza from the Pizza Place will be provided.

The Student Assembly website is back online and working. A suggestion box will be made available online in the upcoming weeks.

Social Traditions:

Social Traditions is in the midst of planning events for Saturday, May 2 (the day formerly known as May Day). Students with ideas should e-mail soctrad@hamilton.edu.

Elections:

Class president elections will be held on Tuesday, April 21, and will last for two days. General election signature sheets are due in box #721 by noon on Friday, April 17. On Sunday, April 19 there will be a briefing meeting at 5 p.m. All 100-word platforms should be mailed to egaston@hamilton.edu.

Other Announcements:

Thursday, April 16, there will be a Bone Marrow Registry Drive held in the Annex from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in memory of Katharine C. Eckman '09. It is a quick process involving registration and a cheek swab. Only one out of every hundred potential donors are ever asked to donate. Please contact Tommy Kobayashi '09 at thomas.kobayashi@gmail.com with any questions.

Somali Speaker Promotes Peace for Nation's Future

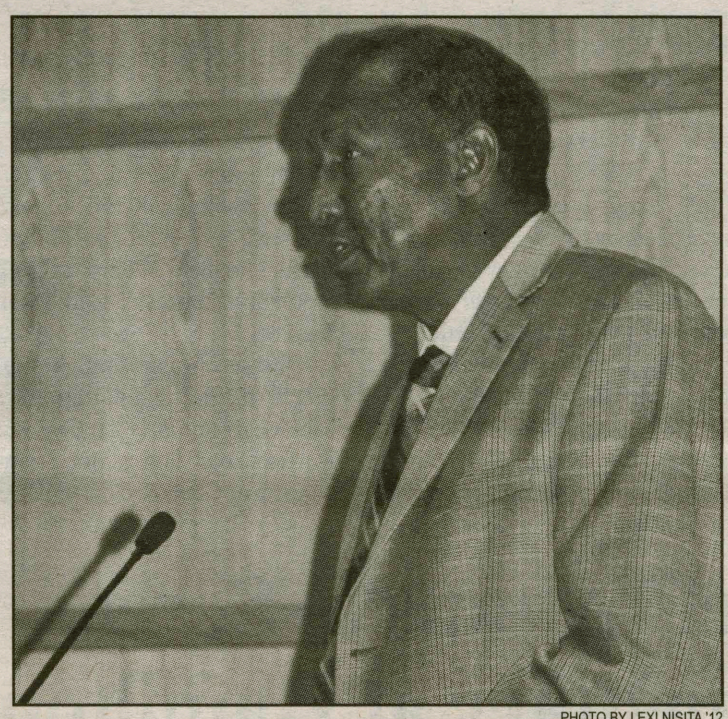


PHOTO BY LEXI NISITA '12

Former political prisoner Suleiman Nuh Ali spoke on the past, present and future of Somalia on April 14, 2009.

*from **Ex-Prisoner,** page 1*

prison. Amnesty International and other international organizations, concerned Ali would not survive the torture in prison, continued to pressure the Somali government. A year later, Ali was released to house arrest. In December 1990, Ali and his family fled Somalia for the U.S. on the last flight out of Mogadishu, the nation's capital city.

Ali accepted a temporary teaching position at Alleghany College but has since returned to Somalia on multiple trips, most recently in 2000, to work to improve the livelihoods of Somali nomads and to seek peace for the Somali public.

During his talk, Ali focused on the political arena of Somalia. Within the region of Somalia, as a nomadic culture, strictly delineated borders do not exist. Society in Somalia is clan-based, and the United Nations (U.N.) is currently working to determine exactly how many clans make up the Somali population. However, at a basic level, Somalia consists of four major clans that derive their identities from a deep-rooted lineage system. Deriving one's lineage is a crucial aspect of the Somali culture. Ali can trace his lineage back to his fifteenth grandfather, and he says his wife knows her thirtieth grandfather.

Historically, Somalia has been under colonial, democratic and authoritarian rule. When authoritarian rule collapsed in 1991, civil unrest rose as clan-based liberation movements spread and arms fell into the hands of one clan. This clan now exercises control over Mogadishu. With the subsequent liberation movements, the area of Somaliland has divided into separate regions vying for independence. Today, the U.N., the European Union, the Arab League and other political groups are trying to form a government for Somalia, but after nearly 15 reconciliation conferences, all attempts have failed.

Ali attributes this failure to the fact that the clans no longer trust the central government. The government of Mogadishu is in exile, and this capital city is ruled by guns, not peace. Ali believes that the U.N. should rebuild a government in Somalia as it did in Djibouti by removing the embargo on arms, allowing Somalia to be armed. From here, Somalia should rebuild the government on its own, calling on citizens to have a stake in the government and to pay for the building of the government so that they feel like a part of the new Somalia.

Once Ali completed his talk on the history and present situation in Somalia, he opened the floor for questions regarding the future of the nation. Many questions focused on the role international aid played in rebuilding Somalia. Ali said that in terms of foreign food aid, it should only be offered to Somalia during times of famine. Food aid poses a major problem to Africa, he pointed out, and the people of Somalia need to learn to feed themselves.

One audience member asked, if a peace agreement is established, should any foreign power have influence to ensure the success of a new Somali government? Ali proposed that Somaliland become a group of confederations based on clan. Already, from work Ali has done in the northern section of Somaliland, relative peace has been maintained, even during much of the civil unrest near Mogadishu. By giving each clan its own Parliament with a Prime Minister and creating an autonomous system for the other regions, the area can then institute a federal government to oversee the major clan governments. Also, a security force within the federal system should consist of all the clans.

Ali appeared to have an optimistic view that Somalia, and many other struggling African nations, can implement successful governments, however he warned that these nations need to take more direct action and play a greater role in their own change.

Students in classes taught by Professor of Government Stephen Orvis, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies Nigel Westmaas and Ambassador Edward Walker '62 will have the opportunity to speak with him personally in their classes this week. Debraggio extends thanks to these professors, the Dean of Faculty and Dean of Students offices and many other student organizations for their help in bringing Ali to the Hill.

Streaking Movie Will Bare it All

from ***Streaking,*** *page 1*

her goal to "streak to win." Though they faced opposition such as campus security and direct competition from other students who attempted to join them, the team came out on top.

This was a historical moment both for the College and for the sport of streaking. Luckily, our fore-minded predecessors did remember to take their cameras out of their pockets before dropping their pants.

"We had a bunch of footage and wanted to share it with everyone else. [We had] 20 hours [of footage]," said Peter Holzaepfel '05.

Thus, the victorious streak of epic proportions has been documented for posterity. On Friday, April 24, current Hamilton students, as heirs to the streaking legacy, will be able to view the movie, entitled *Streak to Win*.

"[*Streak to Win*] is meant to be a comprehensive documentary that someone from just about anywhere in the world can watch," said Holzaepfel.

The documentary is the spawn of an earlier film, *Buff and Blue*, which debuted in Spring 2005. Over the past several years, former streaking stars Sean Trice '06, Adam Bedient '04 and Holzaepfel have dedicated their time to turning this video into a work of art fit for the silver screen.

After the release of *Buff and Blue*, the editors realized "there was much more of a story there that didn't come out. There's plot; there's character," said Holzaepfel.

Holzaepfel, a corporate engagement manager at The Climate Group, has made the professional production of *Streak to Win* a side project with Trice, a web and social community producer, and Bedient, a photographer and filmmaker.

In contrast to *Buff and Blue*, a basic documentary intended for Hamilton students alone, *Streak to Win* will be released as a four-part web-series that will be viewable by all.

"This way more people can see it and appreciate it," said Trice.

Initially, only the first two episodes will be released online. However, true to the Hamilton pride that motivated the group to take everyday streaking to a new level, the creators have agreed to show all four episodes at opening day on campus. The next step? Touring the festival circuit.

Standup Act Uses Laughs to Advocate Middle East Peace

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

This Friday, Hamilton College will host a standup comedy act that fosters a dialogue on working towards a peaceful resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. StandUp for Peace is a two-man show, featuring Scott Blakeman, a comedian of Jewish heritage, and Dean Obeidallah, a comedian of Palestinian background. The event, to take place at 7 p.m. in the Chapel, is sponsored by the Diversity and Accessibility Committee and Hillel, with funding provided by the Student Assembly.

"Due to the fact that the Diversity and Accessibility Committee seeks to promote events that are directly aimed at enriching the campus community through exposure to underrepresented groups, we thought it would be a very worthwhile effort to bring attention and awareness to the conflict in the Middle East," said Andrew Taub '12, Student Assembly Chair of Diversity and Accessibility. "Furthermore, we thought that presenting this topic in the form of a comedy show would help foster a dynamic and friendly dialogue between students."

Blakeman and Obeidallah are both experienced and successful comedians. Blakeman has appeared on "Tough Crowd" with Colin Quinn and worked as a warm-up comedian for the "Late Show with David Letterman" in addition to performing at many international festivals and venues. NBC-TV once called him "The top political comedian working in New York today." Obeidallah has appeared on CNN and Comedy Central numerous times as well as ABC's "20/20" and "The View." He was the recipient of the First Annual Bill Hicks Spirit Award, given for thought-provoking comedy from the New York Underground Comedy Festival.

The two comedians originally created StandUp for Peace in 2002 as a benefit show for Seeds of Peace, a summer camp in Maine that brings together Israeli and Palestinian teens to promote mutual friendship and understanding. Since then, Blakeman and Obeidallah have traveled all over the country to perform StandUp for Peace everywhere from colleges to comedy clubs to Jewish and Arab-American community centers.

"StandUp for Peace is first and foremost a standup comedy show, with an underlying theme of peaceful coexistence between all groups, especially Israelis and Palestinians," said Scott Blakeman, "Dean and I will start the show together and will work in some material about Hamilton at that time as well. Then we will perform our standup acts separately, and at the end both of us will return for an informative and entertaining Q&A, mixed in with some hopeful poll numbers and background information about the conflict."

StandUp for Peace is meant not as advocacy for one side of the conflict or the other, but merely intends to present hope for peace using the compelling tactic of tasteful humor.

"Scott and Dean's humor about their religious and ethnic backgrounds comes from a positive, affectionate place, and both express how proud they are of their respective identities," said Taub. "The only people who could be offended by the show are those who believe that violence is the only answer to solving the conflict and want a never-ending war in the Middle East."

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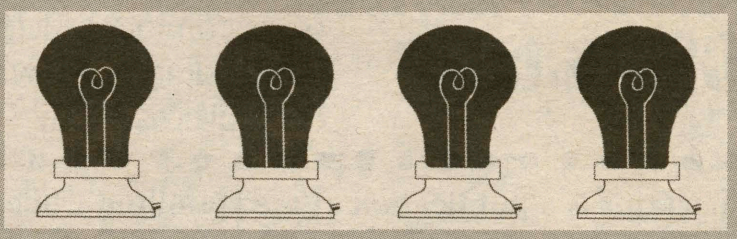
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THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

Moving Class and Charter Day Spirit Down the Road

The April 6 Student Assembly minutes brought devastating news to students, leaving a cloud that has loomed over the Hill for the last two weeks. Class and Charter Day (C&C Day) festivities will no longer be held on the field adjacent to the Griffin Road apartments. "G-Road," complete with water-slide, jam bands and full nalgenes, is the traditional center of C&C Day chaotic fun. Come May 8, the field will lay fallow for the first time in many years.

Cynics believe that C&C Day is simply one last opportunity to get drunk before finals week. While alcohol is certainly present, these cynics miss the true spirit of the day. To say that drinking is the sole purpose of C&C Day is to overlook the unique sense of community that it fosters. We do not go to G-Road simply to get drunk; anyone familiar with life on the Hill knows that finding alcohol is not a challenge. G-Road seems a sensible location because it is one of the few places on campus that can accommodate hundreds of students.

The Dean of Students' office can move the celebrations surrounding C&C Day away from G-Road, but they cannot take the spirit of the day away from those apartments. Nor can they take that spirit out of South, or Dunham, or Bundy, or Milbank, or Root or Kirkland. People who remember C&C Day festivities from years past can attest that it isn't a party for any one group or type of person. It is, truly, an all-campus event.

May 8 is the one day where we can transcend all of our typical boundaries. There are no cliques or clubs on C&C Day. It's one of the few days every year when we fully appreciate that we are Hamilton—each of us, equally, no matter how or where we choose to celebrate. The goal of taking away G-Road is to reduce binge drinking, accidents, and damage to neighboring properties—a reasonable goal. This does not mean that this day, one of the few that we celebrate as an entire student body, must lose its sense of unity. The purpose is not to celebrate at a specific location, or even with a specific group of people. You can party in your dorm, in a quad, at a barbeque, on HamTrek or at the awards ceremony. The day is about recognizing our achievements over the past year, individual and communal. It is a chance for us to commemorate how far we have come and the opportunities that lie ahead of us.

Unless we let it, the sense of community we build on Class and Charter Day cannot be diminished by a change in venue.

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OPINION

Mind Your Manners!

WHAT TYPES OF PDA ARE FAIR GAME?

Perhaps it's just the weather, but couples seem to be springing up on campus almost as much as those early spring flowers. Although we are overjoyed for those of you who have found that special someone, let's not forget that not everyone wants nor needs to know when you would rather be in bed than wherever you actually are. Here are some guidelines:

Commons: This picturesque chapel-like structure is a place for eating sushi, not sucking face. Now, you may be wondering, "How much is too much?" And the answer is, if you wouldn't do it at a family dinner, then you shouldn't do it in Commons. Some of us come from interesting families, so we'll spell it out a little more clearly for you. The "hello/goodbye peck." That's all. This can be remembered simply with KISS: Keep It Short and Sweet. Unless you want to see the cheeseburger soup I just ate, please keep your tongues to yourself. Next, seating. Feel free to sit next to each other. The key phrase is *next to*. Please don't pretend to be two puzzle pieces and try to make all your limbs fit together while you enjoy your Monday mac and cheese. It isn't that hard to pull up another chair and avoid the lap seating situation altogether. Keep the cuddle sessions away from food serving areas to prevent traffic block ups. There's no need to even mention how we feel about backups near our food.

Walking around campus: Holding hands is just fine; in fact, it's kind of cute. It also wards off the predatory singles on campus from moving in on your boo. The mobile prom pose, however, will NEVER be okay. Forget about trying it with a backpack on, because that's quite simply impossible to do and awkward to watch.

In the classroom: Similar to Commons, sit next to each other, but minimize the touching and especially the groping. Not only can failure to follow this advice be distracting to everyone else in your class, but there's no way you can pay attention to the prof when you're fondling your sweetheart.

Lastly, **BUNDYYYYY**: Lucky for you, it's dark and no one will remember what happened the next day. As a result, we can safely say: GO FOR IT. Let's face it, anything goes in the deep, dark corners of the always-classy Bundy Dining Hall. And of course, once you're back in your room, clothing is optional. In fact, it is actually discouraged between intimately involved duos. But whatever you do after your night in Bundy, make sure you use protection.

by Emily Chapin '09 and Lindsey Wong '09

Thumbs up

The third floor of the Chapel: a great place to do work and nobody even knows about it! Oh sh*t.

Using Joan's house for Senior Dinner: Good luck finding that upper decker.

My IM softball homerun: *Now* who's an effeminate nancy-boy *DAD*.

Observatory opens: I know where I'm spending my Saturday night!!!!

Senior Gift Semi-Formal: Cash Bar! Oh gosh! Sorry...I'm all out of money after being cheated out of my $20.09.

Thumbs down

Physical Plant tears up trees around the farmhouse: We wouldn't want those pesky leaves obstructing the view of broken chairs, empty Keystone cans and dead freshmen that adorn the farmhouse lawn.

Final Pub Happy Hour: How am I supposed to get my professors drunk enough to give me As this far from the end of the semester? I think we're leaving too much to chance.

SA comes out with "Parking FAQs": Refusing to answer everyone's most asked question...who the F**K is STILL going to pay for my parking tickets.

Who cares?

DKE's Saturday night torch-lit march: Congratulations, you foiled my plan to completely ignore your existence.

Housing Lottery: Unless you have a rising senior number above 100, then SHUT THE F**K UP about all the sweet places you "might" live.

Easter Egg Hunt: $100 egg found. Cash immediately used to buy figurines and magic cards.

Professors sending half their class talking about the "Mexican Night" controversy: Congratulations! You found the one topic more pointless than the subject you teach.

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09 & Matt Fellows '09

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Class and Charter Concerns

Why getting rid of G-Road won't stop the problems or the traditions

by Charlie Warzel '10
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

I write this in response to what is, at the current time, an unresolved issue. Though there has been no official statement from the college administration (only the Student Assembly minutes), I have chosen to voice my opinion on this matter before it becomes a taboo subject or one subject to over analysis.

As a student abroad in Washington, D.C., I am late to receive any knowledge about on-campus news that is not forwarded through the all-campus listserv. I was, however, notified yesterday evening by a variety of sources on the Hill that the administration held a meeting with Greek organization presidents to discuss the cancellation of the annual Class and Charter Day celebrations that take place at the Griffin Road field. Before I go any further I wish to clarify that this statement does not look to offend, or in many cases, defend any of the actions that take place on Class and Charter Day. Instead, this statement endeavors to respectfully voice an alternate view to the administration and point out an inconsistency in the administration's decision.

It would be foolish to believe the Class and Charter Day celebrations at Griffin Road are not a great area of concern for the administration each year. Hundreds of students congregate on the grassy area behind the apartments for a large celebration of the end of the year before the pressure filled exam week. This celebration hinges upon the consumption of alcohol, and binge drinking is a regular occurrence. No student would debate these facts. However, the reality of the situation is that this event has become a highly anticipated tradition revered by students. It is an event that is celebrated by students from nearly all social circles and is one of the only transitions on campus to transcend social boundaries. I am sure the administration realizes this to some degree, however, I contend they do not realize the extent of this event's importance to the student body. With this in mind, I believe they may not understand the negative effects that this decision will have in trying to prevent binge drinking at Hamilton.

Hamilton College is currently a signatory of the Amethyst Initiative, a statement that urges, "It's time to rethink the drinking age." While this initiative has no direct correlation with the Class and Charter celebration, the decision to cancel the G-Road event contradicts the very reasoning that fuels the Amethyst Initiative. John McCardell, president emeritus of Middlebury College and founder of "Choose Responsibility," is one of the founding partners behind the initiative. In a recent article, McCardell explains the reasonsing behind this initiative to rethink the drinking age. He asserts:

"It doesn't stop drinking by young adults but drives it underground where it can't be controlled, and creates problems such as rapid heavy drinking (so-called 'binge drinking')."

He adds that, "Drinking that is not out in the open, drinking that is unsupervised, drinking that we can pretend isn't taking place, is drinking that is dangerous, drinking that is putting both young adults and other innocent people at greater risk."

The cancellation of the Class and Charter Day celebration at G-Road directly violates this type of thinking. While heavy drinking does occur at G-Road, this drinking is in the open and, to an extent, is supervised by Campus Safety officers in the vicinity. While any student would admit it is not the best situation for the administration, these students would also admit that the Class and Charter festivities would not simply go away with these sanctions. Students, who feel they have been robbed of a fun and meaningful tradition, may look to act out against the administration and perhaps engage in activities that are harmful to not only the student body, but to themselves and the administration.

The results of this sanction would most likely result in more "underground" drinking, which, could prove to be far more dangerous than the Class and Charter celebrations as they currently stand. There is, too, the consideration of the first-year class, who will most likely try to participate in this celebration for the first time from their dorm rooms, where binge drinking is more dangerous and students are less likely to request help from administrative officials.

While the administration's reasoning is not unfathomable, it has the potential to be more problematic than simply letting this tradition continue. I hope the administration has taken this all into thoughtful consideration before making this decision. If not, the consequences of this decision could be more harmful than anticipated.

As a student, I suggest that if the administration is to cancel the G-Road celebrations that they provide the students with an agreeable alternative. This could include moving the celebration to Minor Field, where students could celebrate out in the open with their peers without consequence of wandering or trespassing into private property.

Which Wannabe Gets Your Thumbs Up?

The Spectator has narrowed it down to four candidates to write next year's Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down column. Look for a poll in your e-mail at 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 16, and vote for your favorites!

Candidate A

Thumbs up	Thumbs down	Who cares?
Good housing lottery number. I accept bribes in the form of alcohol and/or chocolate bunnies Watching friendships destruct over said lottery numbers. Do it in the dark: for every light you leave on, God clubs a baby seal.	G-Road cancelled: unless they also cancel sunshine, happiness, and Nalgenes full of "juice", we'll be just fine. Vengeful weather cycle: this is what you get for breaking lent. Overzealous protesters: going to a boycotted party makes me an alcoholic, not a racist.	Your summer internship. "Hey, what classes are you taking next semester?" Alumni career workshop offers advice to class of '09: start praying.

Candidate B

Thumbs up	Thumbs down	Who cares?
All-Campus Easter Egg Hunt: I'll trade you this unopened can of Keystone for three Reese's Pieces. 3 weeks to go until Class & Charter Day: The only thing that brings me more joy than looking at pictures of chubby puppies playing with bubbles on the internet. Senior Boys: Good luck grazing on as many freshman girls as possible in the next 3 weeks... after that, it's called statutory rape.	Saturday Morning Tour Groups: Thanks for making my walk of shame that much more awkward. Gamma Xi Bunny Grams: There is no good reason for the words "Gamma Xi" and "Bunny" ever to be together in a sentence. People Who Like To Do Fun Things: Next Easter, I'm going to decorate your mom's eggs.	DX: Just because you have sweatshirts doesn't make you a fraternity. Class & Charter Day banned from G-Road: Looks like I'll just have to fracture my skull on the Slip N'Slide in Bundy Quad HamTrek: If no one wants to drink with you on Class & Charter Day already, biking around campus in a wetsuit probably isn't going to help.

Candidate C

Thumbs up	Thumbs down	Who cares?
Passover. Matzah Pizza season returns to commons! Stop glaring at me, I'm a gentile but I still need to eat. We can't all be ATX sisters. Prom Dress Rugby. Cool! But why are those guys playing in drag again? Do It In The Dark. *Please*. Watching Hamilton fail at another environmental effort is like having my TV stuck on the Special Olympics. LOLBAMA.	Jungle Juice Party. Gamma Xi sisters use camouflage to their advantage to stalk freshman boys... and eat them. SJI at the faculty meeting. Odd performances and speeches I cant understand. *How do you say uncle in Spanish?* Feminist Panel. "This is what a feminist looks like". Really? I was expecting a bad haircut, Birkenstocks and an expression of bitterness, but OK.	Lent. Guess I can accept Jesus back into my life now. Joan Hinde Stuart ignores her shadow and scuttles back for more. Rapture. DX: Are you a male between 18-24? Do you want a sweatshirt? Do you ....actually that's pretty much it.

Candidate D

Thumbs up	Thumbs down	Who cares?
A new, closer Indian restaurant opens. It looks the same as Minar going in and coming out. Acting President Urgo involves himself in campus controversy. Joan Hinde, out of desperation for support, promises to build 2 outdoor ice rinks next winter. Jason Barth is graduating. Chris Hansen, keep an eye out. Choir returns from singing at the Vatican. Unrelated, the pope signs a decree banning liberals from the church.	Bursting the Hamilton Bubble. Stay away from me, Christian Fellowship. Passover. How are us gentiles gonna make matzah pizza without Jew food in Commons? Duelly does Disney. Oh, it's a play on Debbie does Dallas, only you sing and all of you are virgins. I tried to make a witty invitation for party and now I am going through sensitivity training. FML.	TREE REMOVAL. R.I.P. Black Walnuts outside of Opus. Housing Lottery woes. Aw, you're living in Bundy. I'm graduating into a failing economy. Pledging is almost over. No one cares what you went through for acceptance.

From the Mailbag: Letters to the Editor

Reactions to the Social Honor Code

To the Editor:

The concept of a Social Honor Court is sickening. I foresee the already laughable Hamilton disciplinary system getting wildly out of hand, at a runaway pace. Banning the streaking team, or anything else that "hinders the Hamilton atmosphere that we like," is near-sighted and selfish.

Just because the members of Student Assembly were elected does not give them unbridled power to strip everything and anything that could be deemed offensive to a small, vocal minority on campus--if so, I expect the quick demise of the movie channel, cable TV, fraternities, sororities, the food at commons, and South Dormitory, among many others. Furthermore, the Social Honor Code discussion is, in itself, an attack on our First Amendment rights.

Being given a list of what is acceptable or unacceptable speech or thought is reminiscent of Jane Eyre-era boarding schools, not an institution of higher learning in the 21st century. I accept that the "Mexican Night" discussion is one of merit, but it is paramount that it is left at that--a discussion. The fraternity at fault apologized, and Student Assembly has no right to carry out any of the discussed actions. I fear for Hamilton's future.

Casey Gibson '09

This letter was initially sent to Student Assembly on April 13, 2009.

To the Editor:

It does not surprise me that discussion about a Social Honor Code is taking place at Hamilton in the wake of the recent Mexican Night controversy. This incident offended many people and it is commendable that our community is looking for ways to keep future incidents from happening. However, a Social Honor Code is not the right idea. The right to free speech takes precedence over the urge to label something offensive and punish the offenders. There are many forms of expression that are considered offensive or in poor taste throughout America, but neither Congress nor any state legislature has ever passed a bill outlining the preferred or expected conduct of its citizens. To do so would be to endorse one lifestyle, one system of thought, one set of beliefs over another. This is a far graver offense than upsetting someone, and a far greater threat to our nation than hurting people's feelings. For even if there is no punishment levied for breaking the Social Code, the mere existence of the Code will effectively muzzle student expression by creating a culture of fear and uncertainty. Furthermore, since human beings think in language, to outlaw or control certain words is to control people's thoughts (would ignorance and racism become "ungood" or "plusungood" mentalities?). If people cannot think freely, they cannot live freely.

And, it's not as if people can currently say whatever they wish without repercussions. The community's response to the Mexican Night invite shows that the right to free speech does not mean the abrogation of personal responsibility. The brothers of Delta Phi made a mistake and they paid for it through protests and public shame. This alone is enough of a deterrent against potentially offensive behavior. However, when it comes to deterrence, education will work better than fear every time. Scaring people into not saying or doing something only covers up the problem instead of solving it. Many Hamilton students come to the Hill from homogenous communities. These students need to be educated about diversity and sensitivities rather than scared into certain forms of behavior. This will made Hamilton a "safer" place for everyone while also preparing students for the diverse world that awaits them.

It is easy to have pride in free speech and protect it when it is not under assault. But now the prospect of a Social Honor Code threatens to deprive us of our most basic liberty: the right to think and express ourselves in the manner of our choice. We cannot let the outrage over the Mexican Night invite turn into a search for any method to protect ourselves from offense. Instead, we must seize this opportunity to educate students about diversity so as to broaden their minds rather than limit them. If we don't and instead implement a Social Honor Code, we only believe in free speech, but we don't defend it.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Okin '09

Response to "Mexican Night"

To the Editor:

Over the past two weeks, I have witnessed the most pathetic display in my nearly four years at Hamilton. Almost everyone directly involved in the "Mexican Night" controversy behaved in an abominable fashion. Both the Delta Phi fraternity and the persons who objected to the party invitation deserve the ire of Hamiltonians in different degrees.

The brothers of Delta Phi found themselves assailed by a vocal group of students and the administration, but they didn't cover themselves in glory in response to objections. Following a meeting with Acting President Urgo, the fraternity issued an apology for their invitation. I understand that the pressure on the fraternity was immense, but the proper response to the uproar was to refrain from apologizing. As demonstrated by the reaction to the apology, such a concession only emboldens those who objected to the invitation. If the invitation is offensive, why not cancel the party completely? Don't props like sombreros and ponchos also stereotype and trivialize Mexican culture? Instead of quelling the outrage, the apology only increased the calls for sanctions against the fraternity. Furthermore, the statement by Delta Phi member Rob Taussig '09 to the Spectator demonstrated a woeful misunderstanding of recent American political history. He stated, "[The image in the invitation] is actually a parody on Bush's fear mongering, and actually trivializes the population of Americans who actually believe Mexican immigrants have hostile intentions." As anyone who follows politics in the slightest knows, Bush, bucking many in his own party, pushed hard for immigration reform that would have given illegal immigrants living in the United States a path to citizenship. Contrary to the idea that Hamilton students need more education about issues of diversity, perhaps we more desperately need reality-based discussion of current events.

The students who objected to the party invitation also deserve significant criticism. I do not want to paint with too broad a brush, so I will confine my arguments to the account of student actions in the Spectator article on the April 7 faculty meeting and Corinne Bancroft '09's letter that she read to the faculty meeting on the same day. First consider the Bancroft letter. In it, Bancroft says that the administration should have initiated Judicial Board proceedings against Delta Phi because the invitation supposedly violated a section of the Code of Student Conduct. The passage Bancroft cites, however, is not an actionable offense but one of five "Guiding Principles" for the rules contained in the Code. Do we really want the Judicial Board investigating persons for violating the principle of "treat[ing] all people with respect"? The concept is simply too broad to be an actionable violation.

Bancroft's misuse of the Code, however, is not the most outrageous portion of her letter. Referring to Acting President Urgo's request that concerned students meet with Delta Phi, Bancroft said, "It is inappropriate and insensitive to require those subjected to harassment and hatred, especially when they are concerned for their safety (which we were), to explain to the purported perpetrator their perceived wrong."

Even the most strained interpretation of the invitation's meaning cannot support this outrageous claim. Let us assume for the moment that Delta Phi's invitation communicated a simplistic and inaccurate understanding of Mexican culture and a worrisome suspicion of immigrants coming to the United States (an interpretation I completely disagree with). Given this interpretation, the invitation still does not, in any way, threaten violence against immigrants or Mexicans.

Bancroft's claim is downright slanderous against the brothers of Delta Phi. This supposed concern for the safety of persons on campus, furthermore, allows Bancroft to reject outright the administration's reasonable request that adults from Delta Phi and adults who objected to the invitation come together to discuss concerns about the advertising. For a few semesters now, we have heard from Bancroft and her fellows in the SJI that Hamilton needs to have a serious discussion of race, class, sexual orientation, and gender. Although I disagree about the overriding need to discuss these issues more often than they are already being discussed, I can respect someone who simply wants to start a civil dialogue about something.

In this letter, Bancroft completely abandons the premise that we need to talk about these issues as a community. She doesn't want a discussion; she wants the administration to come down with an iron fist against Delta Phi. Bancroft doesn't want a civil exchange of ideas; she wants a monopoly over ideas. This desire to shut down others rather than talk things over goes directly against the supposed need for an open dialogue. Here was an opportunity for Bancroft and others to engage in a civil discussion about issues of race and expression on campus. Instead, Bancroft demanded that the administration shut down all debate by investigating and sanctioning Delta Phi.

Furthermore, if anyone should be concerned about violence, it should be the administration. At the faculty meeting, the Spectator reported that one student said to the deans, "If nothing happens in two days, you will have me in your face." Here we have a direct threat against persons in the administration. Who was this student? Will there be any sanctions against him or her for threatening employees of the college? In any event, Bancroft and the other students who attended the faculty meeting should denounce this student's verbal threat. Again, this student's statement did not further discussion and debate. He or she made a demand and threatened consequences if the demand was not satisfied.

These and other actions have left me profoundly disappointed in the immaturity of some of the students on this campus. I urge the administration and faculty to remember that the students who protested against Delta Phi do not represent all. I would further urge all students to oppose anyone's attempt to restrict the zone of expression to "acceptable" opinions, as Bancroft and her allies attempted to do in this case.

Sincerely,
Tim Minella '09

Alumnus comments on changing times

To the Editor:

I am surprised that so much can change can occur while so much else stays the same. In light of recent events, I feel obliged to write something that will hopefully lessen some of the undesirable tensions that exist on campus. I'll begin with a sweeping generalization which is not perfectly accurate: the controversy around the Mexican Night party reflects a lack of meaningful unity at Hamilton due to underclassmen who want to transform Hamilton into Wesleyan and a fraternity which exists only to preserve traditions.

I recently returned to Hamilton for the GOLD Summit and other alumni events. My experience was much more eventful than I expected. Although the weather was imperfect and a strange tension surrounded almost every event, I enjoyed my time at Hamilton. While I'm sure some students (who aren't busy working on some pursuit, academic or otherwise) are interested in my take on Mexican Night, first I will describe my experience at the alumni events.

Hamilton alumni never cease to amaze me. It wasn't until I started going to alumni events in California that I realized Hamilton had such a strong presence on Wall Street. Though I'm just as cynical as anybody else about what has happened on Wall Street, I'd like to believe that the people I've met from Hamilton who worked on Wall Street were at least no more responsible than any other group of people. Finance is far from the only area in which Hamilton alumni excel, and one only need look at the Hamilton website to see some examples of other alumni achievements. Additionally, if you go the career center you can access a database of alumni who are experts in various fields (keep in mind that while alumni often work together professionally, we are busy and thus may not even be able to find the time to respond to your e-mail).

Granted this is true for almost any top college, but it seems to me like Hamilton's small size makes the alumni network more efficient. I received a lot of advice and business cards, and I also tried to help some current students even if my ability to do so is limited because I have not yet been out of college for two full years. This week had lots of career panels, and many of the panelists were women or minorities. The College also made clear in various talks that they wanted to recruit more "multicultural" students. Whether they are able to meet the needs and desires of

see ***Letters****,* page 8

Letters, Continued

from ***Letters****,* page 7

current "multicultural" students is another question.

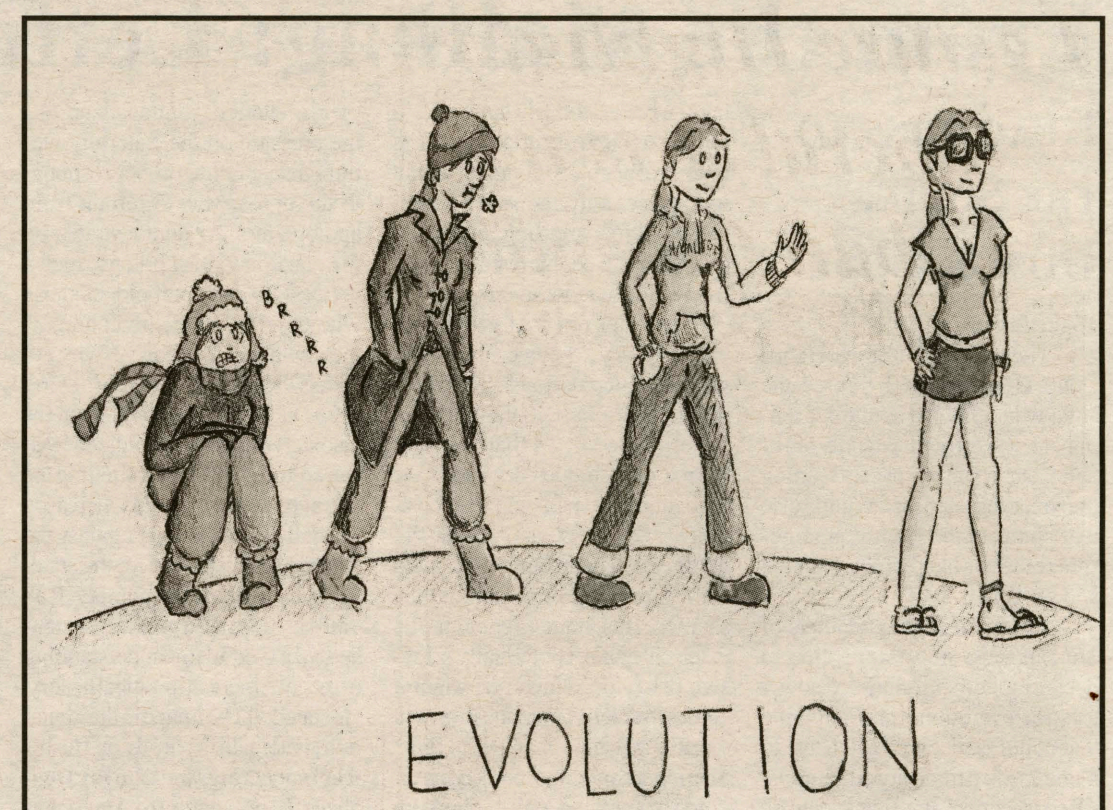
I'll reemphasize that I don't know everything that is going on on campus, but I have talked with a lot of people and read a lot of publications. On one hand, it does seem stupid that many "liberal" organizations are protesting an invitation that was copied from "liberal" Great Name's speaker Jon Stewart's Daily Show. On the other hand, it seems a bit wrong and stupid for an established fraternity to steal the intellectual property of a television showed owned by a network which was formerly owned by the mega-corporation Viacom (and whose current ownership is beyond my knowledge). Regardless of what D Phi has done, it seems to me that the protesters were hypersensitive. By most definitions, I am a "multicultural" student. However, I did go to Clinton Senior High and my mother taught at Hamilton. Additionally, both my parents have PhDs. Finally, my experience at Hamilton was different from current "multicultural" students simply because I went to the school at a different time.

Does anybody remember Ward Churchill? He was invited to speak in 2005 and evoked a tremendous amount of controversy. Members of campus thought he had valuable things to say and that revoking his invitation would be a violation of academic freedom and/or free speech. Someone showed that he had called the victims of 9/11 "little Eichmans" and the issue reached The O'Reilly Factor where Bill claimed we weren't mature enough to hear Ward Churchill (among other things). After all the drama, Churchill resigned and the University of Colorado found him guilty of a plethora of academic misconduct, he even falsely claimed to be Native American. Hamilton ruled to end the Kirkland Project; the organization responsible for bring Churchill as well as many other radical speakers like Susan Rosenberg.

What's the point of that story? It's a bit tough for me to fully transmit because there was an entirely different generation of students on campus at the time. We were divided as to whether Hamilton was too liberal or too conservative. We all wanted to change the college to fit our vision, but we couldn't agree on what that vision was. Many alumni were infuriated, they felt they had already been too tolerant with previous events, it looked like the college might lose substantial sums of donations. Many students were upset that Ward had spoken at other colleges but not Hamilton. All things considered, it could have ended up much worse than it did, I think the administration (specifically the new President) handled it pretty well. My only complaint about the resolution is that it seems nobody knows about it four years after the fact.

So what advice would I give the current Hamilton community? First, I'd recommend that everybody remain calm. Although the college's finances have been hit like everybody's, our administration have gone through the numbers and it looks like Hamilton will be able to meet its goals (this is one example of where having a strong presence on Wall Street helps). If you really find Hamilton intolerable, transferring would not be a bad idea; a higher than expected retention of students has prevented Hamilton from accepting as many students as it would like. To those who wish to stay, I'd remind you that during tough economic times undesirable events occur. You can take advantage of other people's weaknesses and fight them; you can also regress back to old traditions which worked in the past. Ideally, you'll abstain from doing either of those things, pursue whatever passions you have and continue Hamilton's dedication to research, speaking and writing. The world is changing, I hope for the better. It's entirely possible that after recovery, Hamilton will be stronger than it was going in.

Sincerely,
Robin Gane-McCalla '07



Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

Re: God Does Not Play Politics, 4/2/09

To the Editor:

Unfortunately, most (not all) liberals, and far too many so-called intellectuals and 'Christian moderates' in this country (following Europe, Asia etc) have gone way overboard (and thrown MILLIONS of babies out with the "bath water"--whatever the most-common "PC" rationalizations or excuses are) about what the desired 'separation' (non-PROMOTION of a particular denomination or sect) between government and formalized religion was intended to do by the Founding Fathers. This was meant to ensure respect for and between people of different belief systems and traditions, but, of course, Christianity was the prevalent faith being practiced and God's favor was ACTIVELY sought and invoked in protection AND guidance of our country in ALL aspects, and especially in the decisions made by its leaders "for the people" and the COMMON GOOD. Killing the innocent for no valid reason is MURDER in all belief systems and quibbling about or flatly denying knowledge of the basic "facts of life" has made the President (and Democrats) look ridiculous, along with all those "pro-choice" Catholics, Jews, etc, etc.--and especially the media, "feminist" politicians & activist judges.

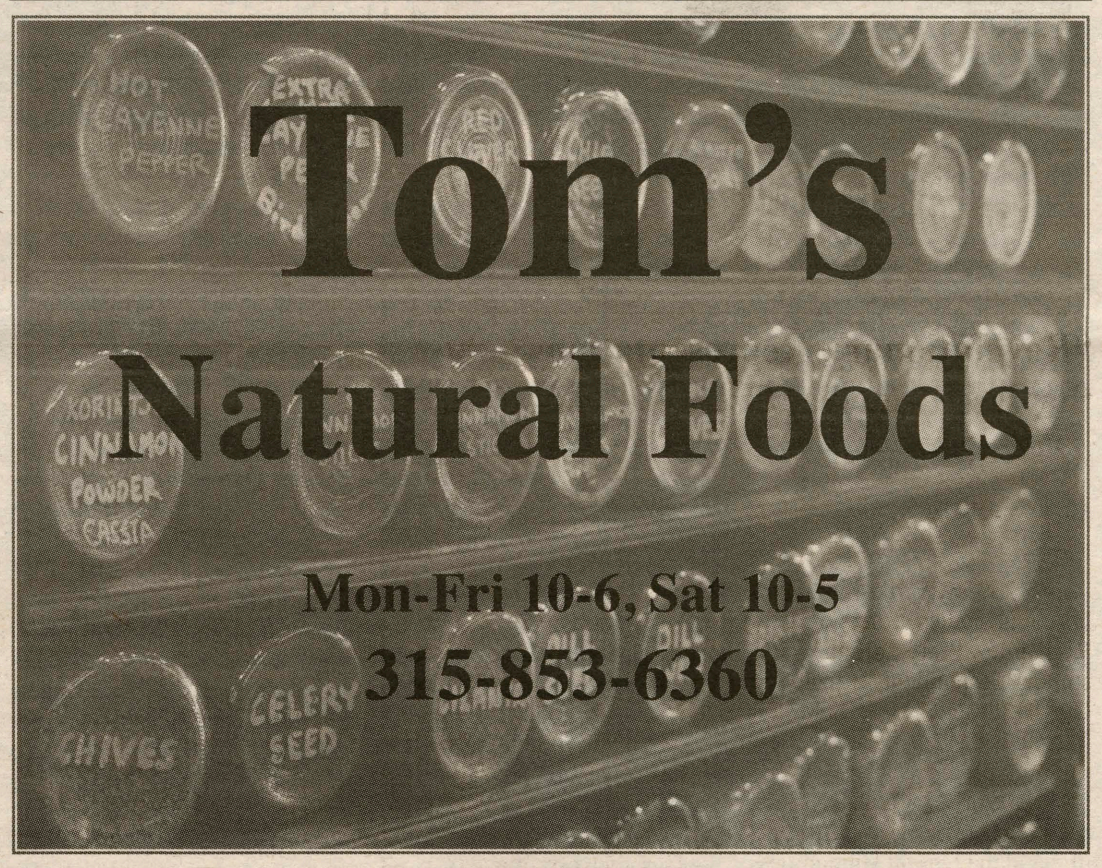
For Mr. Obama to claim that knowing when life begins is "above his pay grade" to me means he's unqualified to lead and fight for HUMAN rights and justice for ALL. In the 21st century, and especially in America, any 12-year old knows a real-live baby is coming if a pregnancy test shows the "life" color! (pregnancy takes two, and BOTH parties are responsible for the new life--or lives--from the DAY the egg meets sperm and starts developing "joint" DNA cells--yes, even in the Octo-mom case) Your "Email rights" and similar weak, baseless arguments made in an attempt to quash any individual's or political group's freedom of speech is just a smokescreen for continuing the LIES that kill children and wound both women and men.

Is the world a better place since men and women have been ENABLED by governments to rationalize away the tenets of their faiths and walk away from their responsibilities with "zero consequences" for their CHOSEN "mistakes" in life-and-death matters? Why do we go after drunk drivers and jail drug users and pushers then, if we all have a right to "choose" our behaviors, however destructive they may be to others? Please stop and think about all the "oops" (unplanned) kids out there--who are the apples of their parents' eyes...and doing great things for others in their neighborhood, school, church, etc.

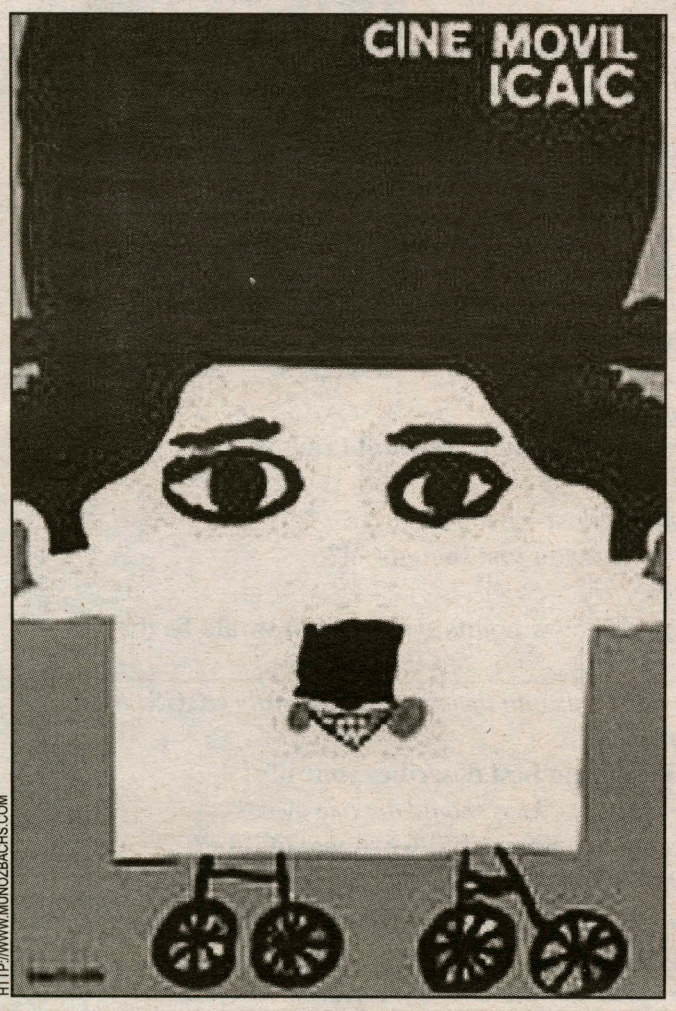
We'll need LOTS of these babies to take care of us older folks (esp. once America stops drawing immigrants willing to do it)... look at the Asian and European countries' future prospects now since their population-control "successes". You may be young, but you should also take a good hard look at what Mr. Obama, et al, will be saddling you with in the future..."health care" that means getting rid of the unprotected, inconvenient and "burdensome", and that won't mean only those "invisible" and VIABLE HUMAN embryos which are so "useful" for pie-in-the-sky "research", and are 'normally' being bred and manufactured (via IVF, for those "lucky ones" who can afford to have their 'custom-made' parenthood dreams-come-true) like any lesser animal is for food, sport or as a 'pet'--and even if their children may very likely come out very premature, even disabled, and need expensive ongoing care??

REAL-life priorities must be set and upheld--and the basic right to LIFE (affirming human dignity & equal justice) should always trump "liberty" (which must go along with responsibility--that's called "civic duty" or good citizenship) or "pursuit of happiness" categories (aka lifestyle 'rights') What's so difficult to 'get' about that?

Sincerely,
Maria Concepcion Rojas
California



Lecture Highlights Liberal Arts in Cuban Cinema



HTTP://WWW.MUNOZBACHS.COM

"Revolutionary Representations" shows that there is more to Cuba than communism, Castro, and *Guys and Dolls*.

by Jessie Brown '12
Features Writer

On Friday, April 10 at 1 p.m., Hispanic Studies Professor Edna Rodriguez-Plate, along with student respondents Elizabeth Ursell '09 and David Schlifka '09, held the fourth in a series of humanities lectures in the Dwight Lounge. These lectures, co-sponsored by the Dean of Faculty and the Digital Humanities Initiative, link the research that members of the Hamilton faculty have conducted to the liberal arts education received by students on the Hill.

Rodriguez-Plate's lecture, entitled "Revolutionary Representations: What Do We Know About Cuban Cinema?", was based on her research about the topic. In her classes, few students have known more than a couple basic aspects seen through a prejudiced lens. What they often see are the negative events learned in history class—such as communism and Castro—or the exotic way it is portrayed in media such as the musical *Guys and Dolls*. "Revolutionary Representations" showed that there is more to the country than these generalizations.

"Cuba has had one of the most developed film industries in all of Latin America for the last several decades," said Schlifka. In fact, in the 1980s it was one of the few countries in Latin America that could afford to finance their own movies. One of the films sampled for the lecture was Fernando Pérez's *Suite Habana*, a documentary following a day in the lives of a dozen or so Cubans. The film, released in 2003, contains minimal dialogue and lots of music, which directs attention to the imagery in the film.

This focus on imagery is a different approach than what the average American viewer is used to. As Rodriguez-Plate, Ursell and Schlifka discussed, Americans watch films for entertainment and rarely analyze them. In Rodriguez-Plate's class, students learn "how to critically analyze images" in the films, she said.

"Seeing films allows us to grasp other cultures, other ethnicities, other religions," she stated, "especially the ones made within those culture in comparison with the way Hollywood usually presents others."

This hollistic approach to education is the connection drawn with humanities. The juxtaposition between Hollywood's idea of diverse cultures and the actual cultures' views of themselves highlights prejudices the West holds. Professor Rodriguez-Plate hopes that her students walk away from her classes with that understanding and a deeper knowledge of this truly eclectic culture.

From Where I Sit
Hamilton's International Perspectives

by Lars Okot '09
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

"Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die,
Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."
-Langston Hughes

As the four year academic journey comes to an end for the Class of 2009, a few seniors graciously shared their thoughts. College life challenges our actions and our interactions, but one can remember that positive respectful action can become a way of life. With a new view on the world, new skills, and a stronger sense of self, the Class of 2009 will graduate with a sense of gratitude to Hamilton. One might say that they graduate knowing that the change of one simple behavior can affect the way one thinks and the way one learns to appreciate life.

What has Hamilton College done for you?

"From where I sit, Hamilton has provided me with the necessary tools to be an efficient writer. It has also indirectly prepared me for the real world. By indirectly I mean to say being placed in a predominantly white institution and experiencing different types of ignorance toward non-white students. It has helped me to deal with different races, personalities, and sexual orientations"
Asia Agers

"From where I sit, Hamilton has I guess given me the chance to discover more about myself than I probably could have in other places!"'
Sean McHugh

"From where I sit, Hamilton has given me the opportunity to see many perspectives on many issues that I thought were simple before. Not only [does Hamilton offer these diverse views], it also [has] given me the opportunity to take part in the dialogue with a well informed mind."
Jai Moorjani

"From where I sit, Hamilton has given me everything and nothing because it has simply given me the opportunity to build on characteristics that are good about myself and it has helped me recognize my faults. At the same time, there's no way I could've done that if I hadn't challenged myself."
Luvuyo Mandela

"From where I sit, Hamilton has given me the opportunity to try things that I otherwise wouldn't have. It has tested and challenged my beliefs, perspectives and my entire way of thinking. I plan to go into healthcare management consulting, and somewhere along the line, I'd like to build a school."
Vako Tamaklo

What has your time at Hamilton College been like?

"From where I sit, my time at Hamilton has been awesome! I wish I had done more. I wish I could stay and take some more courses with (great) professors."
Lars Okot

What was your experience like as a nonnative English speaker?

"From where I sit, as a nonnative English speaker, I feel that there is always more that can be learned in English. I try not to get discouraged to have English as my second language. And I do my best! ... In the time you have to actually stand out in class, you have to speak!"
Lars Okot

Where do you stand on giving back to Hamilton college?

"From where I sit, it's always good to give back because had someone not given back to Hamilton, some of us would not be here."
Lars Okot,

Vako Tamaklo

"From Where I Sit" is the ESOL column that represents the nonnative English speaker's point of view on his or her experience in America. If you have a "From Where I Sit" story that you would like to share, please e-mail bbritthy@hamilton.edu and rfreire@hamilton.edu.

Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week

Sarah Caney '09

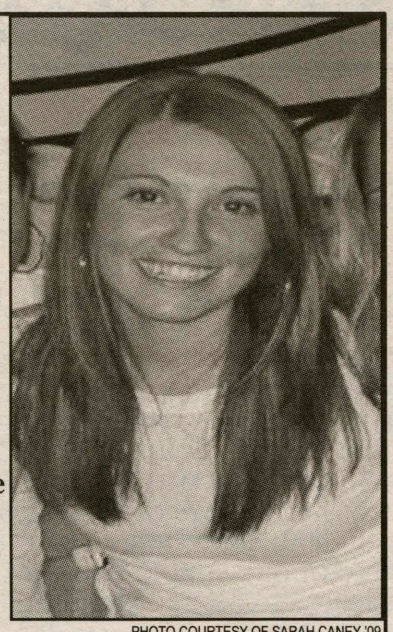


PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH CANEY '09

Hometown: *Ellington, NY*
Major: *Creative Writing*
Turn On? *Baseball hats, hoodies and tees, great sense of humor.*
Turn Off? *Boys that are skinnier than I am.*
What is your worst habit?
I only eat chips and candy in even numbers; I feel too bad for the ones without a partner!
If you were a dorm which would you be and why?
Ferg. A little off the radar, but its got style nonetheless.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
Third Eye Blind and Alanis Morisette, because I love the '90s.
If you were God, what would be the first thing you'd do to the world?
Get rid of snakes (they're just too scary.)
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
Wearing jeans at the gym. Inexcusable.
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
"Reach out and touch someone." AT&T.
What movie genre best describes you?
Action. I'm kind of kickass.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
"Would you like some lime with that juice?"
If you were a major which would you be and why?
English. I have a tendency to overanalyze, and I read to an unhealthy degree.
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
Apparate. For obvious reasons.
If you were a cold cut, which would you be and why?
Capicola. Sweet and spicy.
If you were any social space what would it be and why?
Bundy. It's the hardest to get to and you can only go so often, but it's worth it every time.
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why?
I'm all about freedom of expression.
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why?
DU. They've turned down my bid request three years in a row—fourth time's a charm?
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
I laugh at pretty much everything. (Although is that attractive? Clearly if I'm still single after four years here, my opinion on this subject doesn't hold much weight.)
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day what would it be?
Shelley McConnell—smart, funny, and world leaders have her on speed dial. Everything I want to be.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it which would you choose?
I never seem to think the rules apply to me in the first place....
What would you give a thumbs up?
Frost your own cookie day.
What would you give a thumbs down?
The bookstore's policy on "buying" back books. It's thievery.
Who would you say is your campus crush?
Contrary to popular belief, not Akilah Bond or Abby Jones; that love is purely platonic. I've heard Renaldo Davis has a thing for me though, so I'll give him a shoutout.
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
Professor Lehmann. So smart.
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room?
Edible Body Paint, courtesy of Ferguson Sex Trivia Night. (It tastes like plaster.)

Renaldo Davis '09

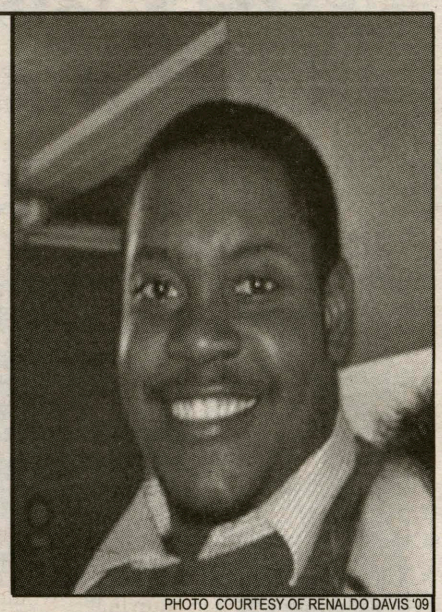


PHOTO COURTESY OF RENALDO DAVIS '09

Hometown: *Bronx, NY*
Major: *Communication*
Turn On: *Confidence.*
Turn Off? *Whining.*
What is your worst habit?
I make moaning/sex noises when I sleep.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
Marvin Gaye and Tina Turner. Nobody's smoother than Marvin Gaye and I know it took a while, but eventually you saw Tina whoop Ike's ass at the end of the movie..
If you were god, what would be the first thing you'd do to the world?
Titties for everyone. Shout out to Rod.
What's the first word you just thought of?
Titties.
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
Men who tuck their pants into their shoes, especially UGGS. Men should act like men.....
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
Milwaukee's Best Light: "Men should act like men."
If you could create a holiday what/when would it be?
Color war: I enjoyed it in high school and I always felt like a giant annual color war would be fun. I do not mean the type we have been having on campus lately.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
This girl said she wanted me to teach her how to play Madden. She had other intentions.
If you were a major which would you be and why?
It'd still be communications because I enjoy talking to people.
If you won an award at an awards show what would it be for?
You mean like I should have won Mr. Hamilton?
If you were a cold cut, which would you be and why?
Roast beef. I guess you have to like dark meat to want me.
If you could have any super power what would it be?
Flying. It'd be fun to be able to go wherever you want whenever you want.
If you were any social space what would it be and why?
ELS basement because anything can happen once the lights are off.
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
Sense of humor.
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day what would it be?
Steve Stetson.
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why?
ELS. What the heck do they do? And personally I hate seeing the word Emersonian.
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why?
Womyn's Center. Personally I do not like men being associated with women either.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton for a day and get away with it which would you choose?
Fighting. Some people just deserve to get beat up.
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs up?
The campus around spring time.
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs down?
A lack of on campus dance parties.
Who would you say is your campus crush?
Sarah Caney '09.
Who would you say is your campus crush?
Catherine Phelan, somedays Danielle Vegas, others...
What's the weirdest thing currently in your room?
ID glide from the Health Center.

Worth Getting Off the Hill for: Kac Thrift Shop

by Katrina Raebler '12
Features Writer

Through an archway on West Park Row in Clinton, in a building that was originally a livery stable, is a little shop full of treasures. Whether it's a new fun thing to add to your wardrobe, a nice basic that you don't want to buy at the Gap, or a sombrero to impress your friends at themed parties, The Kac Thrift Shop is a great source for inexpensive clothing, jewelry, bags, toys and other miscellany.

Manager Jan Burke (whose favorite item of all time sold at The Kac was a chicken lamp that she described as "hot stuff" that made the Clinton news) explained her theory of thrift: "In this day and age, in addition to actual thrift based on income, there is a recycling/green aspect. If you're recycling clothing or what have you in the same condition the last person used it, there is no energy used in processing it from use to sale." True to her theory, Burke explained that the only piece of clothing she has bought new within the past year was a pair of shoes.

The shop is run by two paid employees, a manager and assistant manager, and over 20 volunteers, including Emma Stewart '09, who volunteers at The Kac every Friday. "I just really love used things. To buy new is wasteful," said Stewart. "I really like the quirkiness of stuff that's been used before. It has a story with it that you will never know (but you can make it up). Also, around campus you will never be caught wearing the same thing as someone else. Basically, why pay more when better stuff is cheaper?"

Volunteer Sue Suskie, whose favorite items are the vintage coats (she pulled out an awesome Worthington leopard print coat to show me) explained that she started going to The Kac after she lost a considerable amount of weight and couldn't afford to buy new clothing. "I started coming in once a week and thought it would be fun to volunteer," she said. "I get to meet new people, the volunteers are fun, and I have a great manager."

What kinds of people does The Kac normally attract? Burke described everyone from the religious icon collectors, to the kids who thrive off the outdoor free rack, to the electronics fiends, to the shopaholics who need a fix but don't want to blow all their cash. Burke noted that this semester, relatively few Hamilton students have visited The Kac, favoring the Salvation Army in Utica. While the Salvation Army has a larger selection, The Kac generally has higher quality clothing.

"Salvo has huge variety, but you probably have to sort through a lot of stuff to find a really nice designer piece. Here it's relatively easy," Burke said. "The stuff from Kac's is always the stuff I get compliments on," said Marielle Mathews '09.

Another perk is that you can walk to The Kac, furthering the green aspect of thrift. Stewart also drew my attention to the atmosphere. There are no fluorescent lights and the people who work there are very friendly, always willing to give their opinion on an outfit or go out of their way to help you find what you're looking for. "Half the reason I love to work there is because I love Jan so much!" Stewart said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAN BURKE

Grand Opening of the Down Under at 2 Kellogg St. on Jan. 22, 1975

Burke even suggested that if you're dressing to impress at the Rocky Horror party, you can always call ahead to The Kac and ask them if they have anything transvestite-ish. When I took a break to stalk out my prom dress for the upcoming rugby scrimmage and asked if they had anything with more poufy sleeves, Burke went to the back room and pulled out an immense wedding dress with a six foot train that she was willing to sell to me for $25. I was tempted, but decided that playing rugby in that dress would require a flower girl to run around with me holding up my train. Plus, it was so beautiful that I didn't want to ruin it.

As my friends tried on more puffy frocks and toyed around with a kid's drill, I learned the history of The Kac. The Kac Thrift Shop opened in 1975 after a group of locals got together and decided that a thrift shop would be a great way to raise money for the Kirkland Art Center, the hub of community culture and art. This local art center, located in the yellow church across the street from the thrift shop, provides space for art, dance and yoga classes. The building also hosts the occasional coffeehouse. This Friday, et L'Esprit Creole is performing at the arts center. Local artists are also featured at the art center. Currently, two Hamilton students' photographs are on display for sale in the art center gallery. Though the art center has other means of funding, the thrift shop is the steady year-round fundraiser.

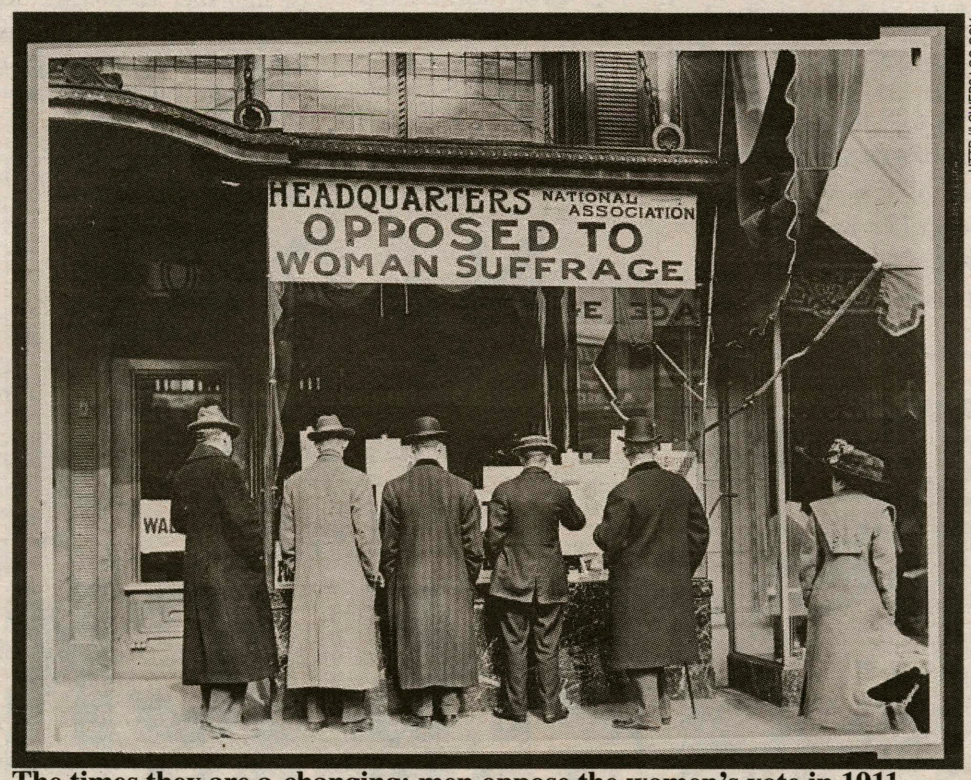
Whether it's the people, the neat finds, the green thrill of thrifting, consigning your own stuff or simply having a bit of creative fun, there are many reasons to visit The Kac Thrift Shop.

Womyn's Center Panel: Not Your Average Feminists

by Xiaolu Xu '12
Features Writer

Since its establishment in the 19th century, feminism has altered predominant perspectives in a wide range of fields. The definition of feminism has also experienced its own evolution. Today, many feminists are still stereotyped as anti-male, but if we define feminism as an ideology parallel to human rights that advocates gender equality, then many people who are not typically considered feminists will be able to identify themselves as such—particularly males. Women are no longer fighting alone for their rights, but is it really as simple as this? Can men who support the idea of women's rights really call themselves feminists?

There are plenty of opinions doubting the effectiveness of males calling themselves feminists on both sides of the campaign. Guys may regard their fellows who label themselves feminists as feminine or weird, rather than revolutionary. Women believe guys lack the life experience as a female and all the attendant discriminations that it brings, preventing them from full and active participation in (and understanding of) feminism. As the population of male constituents of the Womyn's Center reaches a quarter of the total membership, some students from the Womyn's Center genuinely believe that men can, and should be, real feminists. They held a panel discussion of this topic on April 9 in order to "open the door to airing or even dispelling what the general preconceptions of feminism may be with the Hamilton community," said co-chair of the Womyn's Center, Sushmita Preetha '11.



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The times they are a-changing: men oppose the women's vote in 1911.

The nine speakers on the panel come from various backgrounds. Six of them were students from different majors and different years, and three were professors from different departments. All the panelists had two things in common—they are male and they consider men capable of being feminists.

Luke Maher '11 said, "feminism deals critically with the way that gender affects everyone. Gender has hindered the way we think. It would be positive for me to bring in some other perspective from someone has been marginalized."

Speakers agreed that though gender politics definitely exist, it will do no good for feminism to deliberately exclude its own supporters from the ranks. They felt that men who are prepared to stand up against socially constructed gender inequality should have the right to sport the tag of "feminist." This right, after all, is awarded to those who go by other lables, such as "environmentalists."

Speakers and attending students also commented that many social norms were still unfavorable to females and even sexually harassing in nature. "Around 50 percent of the themes of the parties on campus are offensive to women," said Maher. The participants admitted that gender-equitable norms are easier said than done, though they agree that males should participate in preventing females from being treated unequally, especially in social situations. Attendees were left with this question: is it the label that matters, or is it more important to worry about how feminism is translated into daily life?

L1 O1 G2 I1 C3

by Russell Marcus
Professor of Philosophy

P3 U1 Z10 Z10 L1 E1

The Solution

In our last puzzle, you were asked to determine two ten-digit numbers in which each of the numerals from 0 to 9 appeared exactly once. Each number had to be divisible by each of the digits (except 0!).

The Winner

Tom Helmuth '09. Congratulations, Tom!

The Puzzler's Solution

All whole numbers are divisible by 1. Any number using all the digits will be divisible by both 3 and 9. Since the numbers have to be divisible by both 2 and 5, they must end in 0. Any number divisible by 3 and 2 will be divisible by 6. And, if a number is divisible by 8, then it will be divisible by 4. So, if the number ends in 0, we only have to worry about making it divisible by 7 and 8. Any number whose last three digits are divisible by 8 will be divisible by 8. Furthermore, since the numbers end in 0, for the last three digits to be divisible by 8, the two-digit number formed by the hundreds and tens digits (in that order) must be divisible by 4.

Let's start with the small number, and let's say that the number is 123456***0. The number is only missing 7, 8 and 9. But, there are no two-digit numbers formed by 7, 8, and 9 which are divisible by 4. So, we have to choose a slightly larger lead, swapping the 7 for the 6: 123457***0. Now, our missing digits are 6, 8, and 9, which yield two two-digit numbers divisible by 4: 68 and 96. So, we can test 1234579680 and 1234578960 for divisibility by 7. There's no easier way to test for divisibility by 7. Do it by hand or use a calculator; either way both numbers fail. Continuing in this manner, choosing slightly larger leads each time, we get to the solution: 1234759680. For the largest number, start with 987654***0, and work up. The solution is 9876351240.

To determine the answer to the bonus question of how many numbers conform to the constraints, a bit of computer programming is prudent. The puzzler, whose skills are rusty, is still de-bugging.

Look for an answer on our website, along with alternate solutions to the current puzzle, as well as past puzzles and solutions: http://www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.html. And, look for our last puzzle of the year in the April 30 edition of The Spectator!

Naomi Klein's Dose of Shock

by Maura Donovan '09
Features Contributor

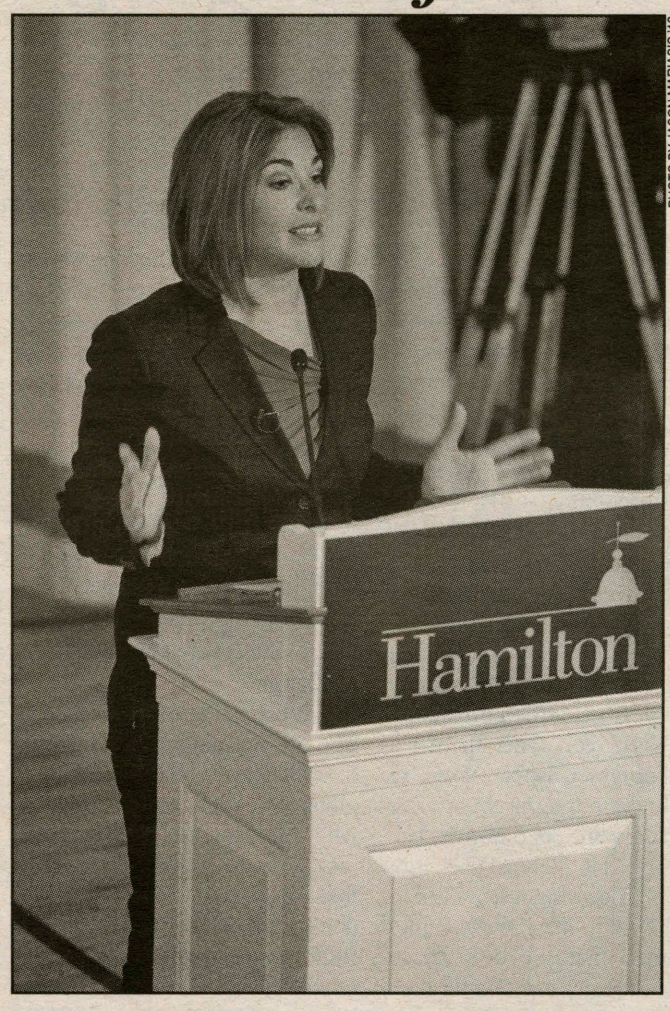


PHOTO BY JASON MARIASIS '12

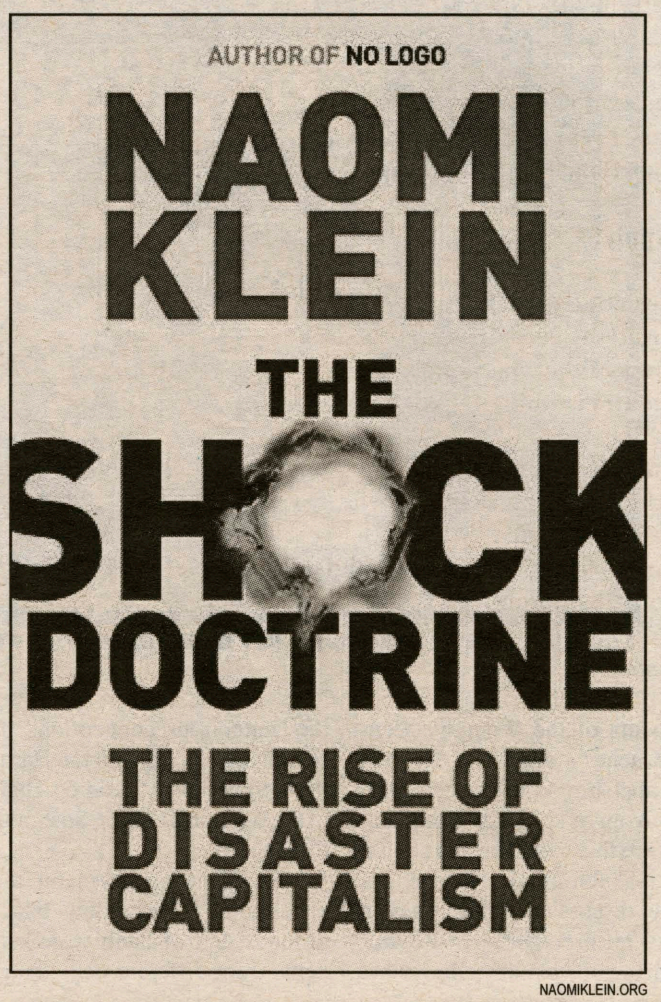
Last Tuesday, Naomi Klein came to the chapel to discuss her latest book, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* and her theories about the rise of "disaster capitalism." A Canadian native, Klein writes for *The Nation* and *The Guardian* and has been called the "most influential critic of neoliberalism." Even during the busy time of April, the chapel was full to capacity to hear her discuss privatization after natural and man-made disasters. Klein argues that after natural disasters, such as the 2004 tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, or man-made disasters, such as the 1973 coup in Chile and the 2003 Iraq invasion, leaders use the confusion and shock of the public to impose unpopular capitalist policies. She contends that after such a traumatic event, the public is so distraught that they look for leaders to make drastic moves for change, moves which they never would have agreed to otherwise.

Klein's book focuses on the Bush administration and how it has brought "disaster capitalism" to the American home front after September 11and brought it to Iraq after the invasion in 2003. Disaster capitalism is not just an American phenomenon; Klein contended that the policies of Pinochet in Chile, Thatcher in Great Britain and Yeltsin in post-Communist Russia are all examples. She then discussed the application of this grand scale privatization after the September 11 attacks when the U.S. opened Guantanamo Bay and outsourced torture to private contractors. This continued to create the Homeland Security industry, which Klein said gave $130 billion to private contractors in the five years after September 11. Klein became interested in this process of privatization while reporting on the Iraq War. However, she said in an interview before the lecture that she first realized "disaster capitalism" spread beyond the Bush administration after receiving an e-mail from the head of the Sri Lankan fishermen. This e-mail claimed the "second tsunami" had struck, one of globalization and privatization. She then investigated the capitalist ventures which sprung up along the clean slate coastline in Sri Lanka, tracing them back to hands off neo-liberalist movements of economist Milton Friedman at the University of Chicago.

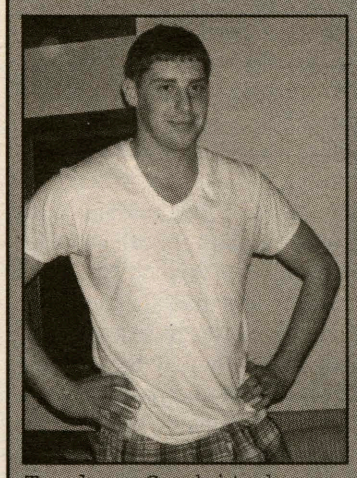
"Although the party changed, it is up to the public to hold the new administration to high standards."

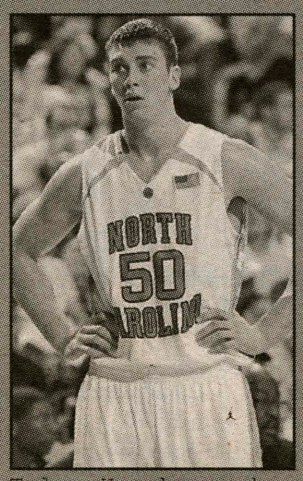
Surprisingly, Klein is neither cynical about the promise of change, nor is she convinced that the U.S. public lacks trust in these new faces. She emphasized that Obama won the election by winning over the working class but also questioned his interventions in the current economic crisis. She asked "in whose interest are they intervening?" The Democrats did win the election but are still bailing out the wealthiest in the country. Although the party changed, it is up to the public to hold the new administration to high standards.

Klein said she wrote her book to educate the public and to prepare them to fight against leaders who take advantage of tragedy to hurt society's most vulnerable. In the same interview, she discussed the deindustrialization which is currently affecting the Clinton area and how it is time for the public to look at their communities and speak out against policies which hurt them, even if these policies are popular with the wealthy CEOs. Her lecture was provocative, and much of the campus may view her ideas as controversial. However, the benefits of her unconventional views cause more people to question and get involved in the anti-privatization movement.



Separated at Birth?


Taylor Soobitsky '09



Tyler Hansborough, UNC forward and NCAA tournament champion

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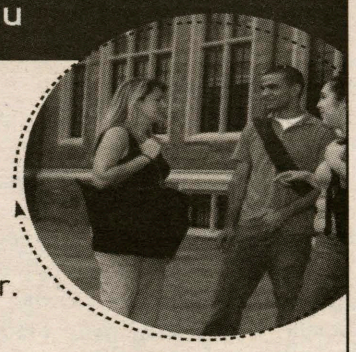

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Interested in Student Assembly?

Elections will be held on Tuesday April 28th for the following positions:

Class Treasurer/ Secretary: 1 per class year
Class Representatives: 5 per class year
Honor Court Representative:2 per class year
Judicial Board Representative: 2 per class year

Appeals Board Representative: 2 from the student body (previous Honor court or Judicial Board experience preferred but not necessary)
Please Note: No single candidate can run for more than one of the following offices: Judicial Board representative, Honor Court representative, or Appeals Board representative.

To Apply:

1. Submit a signature sheet (see attached). Class Treasurers need 50 signatures all other positions need 25 signatures. All signatures must be from members of the candidate's class year with the exception of those candidates running for Appeals Board Representative.
2. Write a platform of no more than 100 words explaining interest in what you're running for. Platforms longer than 100 words will be cut at the 100th word.
3.Attend a short, but mandatory briefing meeting on Sunday, April 19th. In ELS at 5pm.

Signature sheets and platforms will be accepted no later than Friday April 17th at noon. Email platforms to egaston@hamilton.edu and submit signatures to Edwin Gaston, Box 721 in the mail center.

Have specific questions regarding your responsibilities if elected to office or the election procedures?
Email Edwin Gaston at egaston@hamilton.edu

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Student Play, *Catching Tom*, Entertains Students

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

On Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Events Barn, the C&C Project presented *Catching Tom,* a one act play made possible by Hamilton College and the David Smallen Fund. *Catching Tom* was written and directed by Christian Baxter '10, who also acted in the production. Baxter stressed that though he wrote and directed the show, his cast and crew were responsible for many aspects of its evolution, even stating in the show's playbill that "the critiques of the cast and crew transformed [the script] into what you will see today. They were, undoubtedly, all assistant playwrights in this process."

The final product was certainly a collaborative effort from a strong cast of colorful characters. The story begins with Jane, played by Jocelyn Bos-Fisher '10, who is now a grandmother, telling her granddaughter Katie, played by Kyra Duhaime '12, a mysterious love story from her past. In it, a younger Jane is engaged to be married to the pretentious and manipulative Darrell, played by Stephen Kemp '11, because Jane mistakenly believes that getting married (what her family wants) will make her happy. Of course, all of this begins to change when she meets Tom, played by Baxter, who is the total opposite of Darrell. Tom has a goofy sidekick, Jeff, played by Min Hyuk Cho '12, who has a romance of his own with Jane's best friend and confidante Tina, played by Laura Lee Smith '11.

The script of Catching Tom was at once heartfelt and funny. Both older and younger audience members laughed throughout, especially at the antics of Cho and Smith's characters.

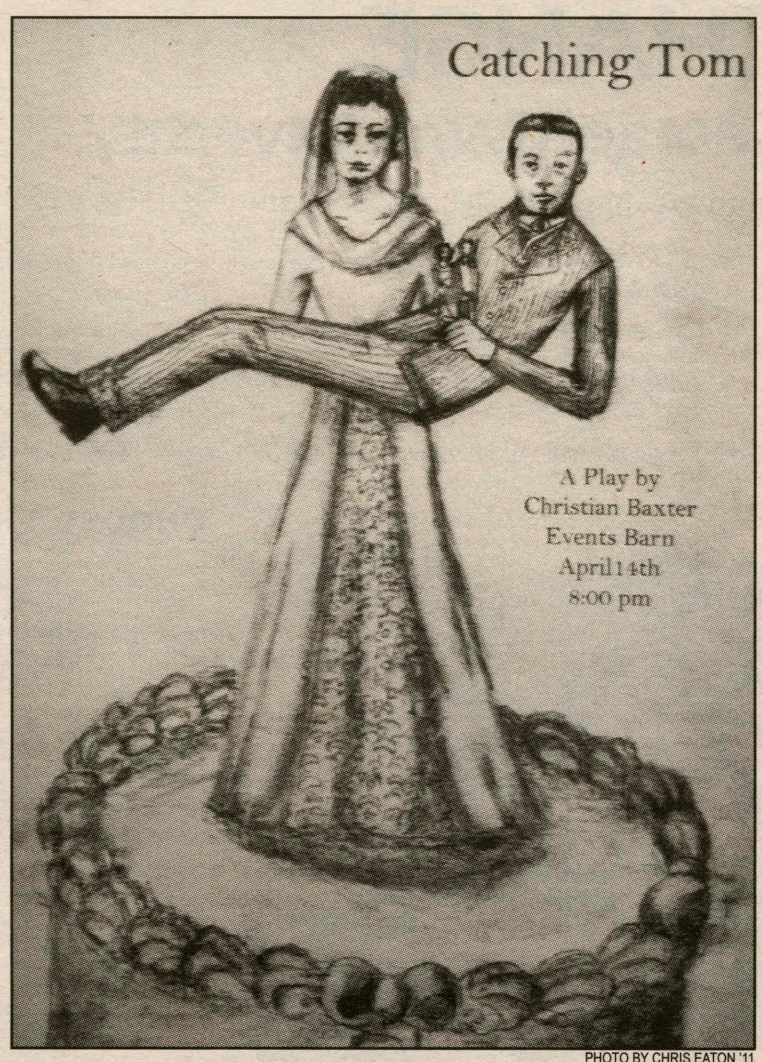


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

***Catching Tom,* the play that premiered this past Tuesday, was a comedy directed by Christian Baxter '10.**

Though some of the characters felt like romantic comedy archetypes, the actors brought their own personal touches to each, and played their parts with a great sense of sincerity that speaks well of their acting and Baxter's directing skills. The lighting design by Michael Bieber '12 and the sound design by Ashlyn Razzo '11 seemed highly appropriate for the sweet and sunny atmosphere of most of the show. Baxter also emphasized that the production would not have been possible without the help of his "eyes and ears," Assistant Director Sarah Kane '12.

As a theatre major, *Catching Tom* was originally Baxter's senior project proposal, but he decided to perform it as creative pre-cursor to the senior project that he will produce next year. "Ultimately, this process was a teaching tool," said Baxter, "It showed me how to deal with people. It showed me what to look out for. It gave me insight on how much patience and endurance is necessary to put on a show. I kept a journal of this process and it amazes me how everything has turned out as I look back."

Baxter aspires not only to write entertaining plays, but plays with a uniting message, a goal that *Catching Tom*, with its multicultural cast, accomplishes. Even the title of the play reverses gender roles by making the man more objectified than the woman, as Tom, and not Jane, is the one that has to be "caught." Societal convention would usually have it the other way around.

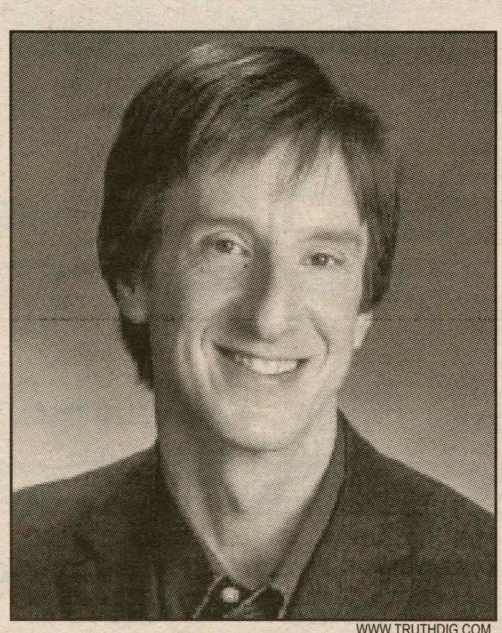
"Mark Cryer and I talked one day and I knew where I wanted to go with my writing for the future," said Baxter. "I want to break away from the social constraints of race and gender. I want to write about how people live… I want to write pieces that are universal."

Andy Borowitz at Hamilton

by Matt Nudell '11
Arts & Entertainment Writer

This Thursday at 8 p.m., comedian and satirist Andy Borowitz will hit up the Events Barn for an hour-long-class-A comedy performance. The event is hosted by the Hamilton College Democrats and is open to Hamilton College students and the public. Borowitz is famous for his weekday satirical news publication *The Borowitz Report,* which he started in 2001, and his creation of the comedy TV show *The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air* in 1990. His recognition as a political satirist has grown tremendously since the featuring of *The Borowitz Report* in several major newspapers, including *The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Seattle Times,* and *The Los Angeles Times*, and on Newsweek.com. Additionally, Borowitz has maintained a blog for *The Huffington Post* since 2007 and has been a commentator on the NPR programs *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Weekend Edition Sunday.* Since 1998, Borowitz has contributed humor articles to the *New Yorker* and has performed with The New Yorker College Tour.

Aside from his political satire work, Andy Borowitz has been an avid television performer. He joined CNN's American Morning show starting in 2002, and covered the Democratic National Convention in 2004 with comedian Lewis Black for CNN. He has also appeared on several television programs including *Live at Gotham* (Comedy Central), *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*, and *Best Week Ever* (VH1).


WWW.TRUTHDIG.COM

Andy Borowitz will perform on April 16 at 8 p.m. in the Events Barn.

Notably, Borowitz is an established comedian who has performed at prominent comedy clubs throughout the United States, including *Caroline's on Broadway* in New York where he hosts the comedy show *Next Week's News.* He has performed at U.S. Comedy Arts Festival since 2004, and hosted the comedy show *Countdown to the Election* in 2008 to sell-out crowds.

Besides creating *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, Borowitz has written for several television shows including *The Facts Of Life* and *Square Pegs*, starring Sarah Jessica Parker. Borowitz co-produced the movie *Pleasantville* (1998), which was nominated for three Oscars, and acted in Woody Allen's *Melinda and Melinda* and the film *Marie and Bruce*. It was announced in 2009 that Borowitz's screenplay *Dinner for Schumucks* will be produced into a movie, starring Steve Carrel.

Borowitz has won numerous awards including the 1992 NAACP Image Award for *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,* the 2004 National Press Club Award for Humor, and seven About.com Political Dot Comedy Awards for *The Borowitz Report.* The satirist has also been a finalist for the James Thurber Prize for American Humor in 2001 and 2005, and was inducted into the exclusive New York Friars Club in 2002.

A & E Calendar

Thursday

What: Andy Borowitz
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Events Barn

What: Eurydice
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Minor Theatre

Friday

What: Senior Art Show Reception
When: 4 p.m.
Where: Christian Johnson Emerson Gallery

What: Hamilton Jazz Combo
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Piggy Pat's

What: Student Recital
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Wellin Hall

Friday Continued

What: Eurydice
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Minor Theatre

Saturday

What: Concert for Spring
When: 3:00 p.m.
Where: Babbit Pavillion

What: CAB Musical Comedy: Baby Wants Candy
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Tolles Pavillion

What: Tumbling After Concert
When: 8:00 p.m.
Where: Chapel

JOB SEARCH HOROSCOPES

by Steve Allinger '09
Staff Seer

***Aries*: If you vomit during an interview, don't worry! You can still salvage it by screaming, "LOOK WHAT YOU MADE ME DO" and robbing the place.**

***Taurus*: Remember my friend, it is not always necessary to bang your interviewer. But if you do, you better be good at it.**

***Gemini*: If you notice that an interview is starting to go bad, it is generally a good idea to chuckle condescendingly at your interviewer and ask if there is anyone higher up you can talk to.**

***Cancer*: It is very likely that your potential employer has been swept up in the recent LOLCats rage. Try making your best kitty face and saying, "Can I has job plz?"**

***Leo*: You lack the competitive edge necessary to compete in today's cutthroat economy. Next time you walk into an interview produce a dead snake and tell the interviewer that it fell out of the pocket of the last person they were interviewing.**

***Virgo*: While it is good to be proud of your family, screaming, "Do you know who my third cousin is?" is both childish and unthreatening.**

***Libra*: You are a very confident individual, and during an interview, eye contact is crucial to your success. Make sure you challenge your interviewer to a staring contest, and definitely make sure to call them a p**sy when they lose.**

***Scorpio*: Unfortunately, you are far too stupid to understand how to use HamNET.**

***Sagittarius*: There will always be tension between doing what makes you happy and selling out to make lots of money. But since no one will pay you to host an underground toddler fighting ring, you better just sell out and keep it an expensive hobby.**

***Capricorn*: Businesses can now gain access to your Facebook account. Make sure you remove any pictures where you are not drinking competitively. Bosses want winners, not b**ches.**

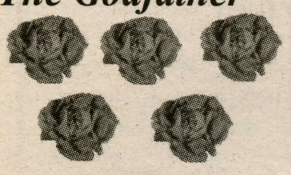
***Aquarius*: It's always a good idea to get the logo of the company interviewing you tattooed on your neck, just make sure it covers the logo of the last one.**

***Pisces*: Do not worry too much about your pedestrian GPA. Employers are more interested in your experience and personality. Or at least I seriously hope that's the case.**

How Many Lettuce Heads Today?

by Joshua Hicks '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Godfather



There are many cinematic sins committed by moviegoers on a regular basis. Not seeing Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* is certainly one that needs to be remedied. In the line of family movies, I don't think any other movie tops the following: cooking at home, lessons on respecting your elders, meeting the parents, marriage, raising children... where should I stop? It is a long film, but it is certainly an experience.

It is the gruesome tale of a crime family and their attempt to preserve the family by keeping it separate from "business." Marlon Brando stars as Vito Corleone, the Godfather, and Al Pacino stars as his son Michael, who must come to grips with saving his family, reconstructing what his father has started, and putting his own morals to the test. I dare not say any more, because this film is so perfectly done that it needs no more explaining. Please see this film, since I give it five out of five Lettuce Heads for brilliance, unforgettable sequences and an overall thrilling cinematic experience. (Note: When you're done, see *The Godfather II*, but don't worry about part III).

The Patriot

When was the last time you saw a family flick that gave you the burning desire to just hug somebody? Did it also send you trembling every time you heard a British accent? Then you, too, probably turned on TNT and saw *The Patriot* starring Mel Gibson and the late Heath Ledger as rebel father and son struggling for freedom against England. While the Robin Hood-esque guerrilla tactics add suspense as Benjamin Martin (Gibson) recruits rebel militia to strike at the British army, the film also targets issues of family and duty. Director Roland Emmerich also throws in Tom Wilkinson (who you'd certainly remember from *Batman Begins* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) as the civil General Cornwallis and Jason Isaacs as the merciless Colonel Tavington, who kills two of Martin's sons. The combination of British villains and the struggle for freedom leave us with the all-American must-see patriotic film.

I, however, am indifferent to this nationalism and only give the film three out of five Lettuce Heads. In addition, the film loses a whole lot of its character once Martin retaliates in an epic slaying of redcoats, at which point his children realize their anti-war father is actually a weapon of mass destruction. You can see more of his bloody ways in *The Passion of the Christ.*

The Seventh Seal

I've heard so many students complain about how hard it is looking for internships and cramming for Psych. Stats exams. But try placing yourself in the good old days, returning home from the crusades only to find your country swept away by the Black Plague. Already, Ingmar Bergman has captivated us from the very beginning of his masterpiece *The Seventh Seal,* starring Max Von Sydow, who you might remember I mentioned last week from *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. Not only does the knight, Antonius Block (Sydow) have to accept that his country is falling apart, he has Death following him around. When Antonius realizes Death is coming for him, he slows the inevitable by playing chess with Death and simply chatting.

The film explores mortality in a way that left me wondering if someone was following me around, turning an hour glass upside down every so often. It is a highly inquisitive film, asking questions about God, sin, religion and humanity. This 1957 classic gets five out of five Lettuce Heads and I encourage you to see it.

WHCL

DJ of the Week:

Mike Bieber

by Lexi Nisita '12
Arts & Entertainment Writer

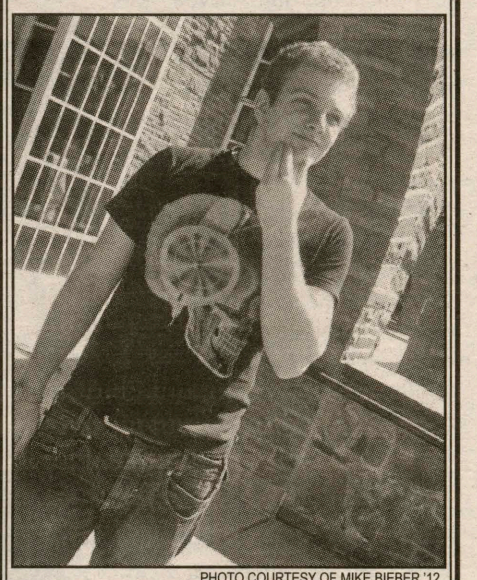


PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE BIEBER '12

One of the few student DJs who actually features a substantial talk portion on his show, Mike Bieber '12 brings his love of comedy together with his passion for "urban music" on "Banter with Bieber." Every Wednesday at 5 p.m., Beiber (along with theater classmate Brittany Tomkin '12 and fellow Yodapez member Kadahj Bennett '12) puts on what he calls a "…variety show. We're putting on a weekly performance." The show features planned comedy segments along with a combination of hip-hop, R&B, neo-soul and alternative rock that, according to Bieber, anyone from his Hamilton cohorts to his mom can enjoy.

In his personal life, Bieber listens to a lot of the same, but his favorite artist is modern classical violinist Edvin Marton. Although it's quite a different genre from the majority of his musical taste, Bieber enjoys Marton's blend of old and new, saying "he's playing a $20 million renaissance violin yet he has a modern feel to his music." Tune in to "Banter with Bieber" at 88.7 FM or listen live on your computer at WHCL.org.

What's on his iPod?

1."Rio Carneval" by Edvin Marton

2."Sincerely Jane" by Janelle Monae

3. "It Wasn't Me" by Shaggy

4. "The Jimmy Choo's" by Chester French

5. "Crazy" by Gnarls Barkley

6. "Controller" by XV

7. "Madre Terra" by Globus

8. "My Pen" by The Downbeat Keys

9. "Wake Up Call" by Maroon 5

10."Moneyright" by Music Soulchild

Green Events to Bloom on the Hill this Spring

Highlights Include Farmers Market, Green Pledge, Trivia Night and Low Carbon Diet Day

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

HEAG will present its semi-annual Martin's Way Farmers Market this year on Wednesday, April 22.

At long last, we can think about saying it. Be quiet, though. Whisper. Glance tentatively to see if the person next to you heard. Then abandon all pretense and run out into the Glen with reckless abandon, sun-starved skin basking in the glow of glorious beams of light. Shout it to the heavens: "IT'S SPRING!"

Green is sprouting up everywhere, and with it, almost inevitably, comes green events. With Recyclemania finished and Do it in the Dark comfortably underway, the focus on the environment is moving from inside the dorms and discussions about environment-based political initiatives to the great outdoors that is Hamilton's campus.

Most of the upcoming events focus on Green Week, which will run from April 20-25, although events will start before then. At 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, environmentalist Giovanna di Chiro will lecture in Science Center room G041. Di Chiro is co-founder of the Pioneer Valley Community Environmental Justice Coalition. She collaborates with environmental justice organizations to conduct community-based research on environmental health disparities in the low-income communities of Western Massachusetts and has written a number of books on social power and environmental science.

On Friday, April 17 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Monday, April 20 from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m., HEAG will have a table in Beinecke where they will be discussing the Green Pledge. Members of the community can choose to sign the pledge, affirming that they will "change one or more aspects of [their] daily lives to be more environmentally friendly. Also on Monday, Knit Happens will be making "plarn," a plastic yarn using recycled plastic products.

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Members of Physical Plant and HEAG plant a tree on Arbor Day last year, as they will to conclude Green Week.

Steeled by new resolve, the campus should be ready for the barrage of green events to follow; both new events and regular activities will be affected. Trivia Night will feature several environmentally-related questions on Tuesday, April 21, and promises to have a number of other green themes pervading the event. Nothing helps the environment more than knowing about it, so HEAG officers have encouraged everybody to attend trivia night and test their environmental wisdom.

Wednesday, April 22 is Earth Day, and the campus will be spruced up in true springtime style. HEAG plans to present its semi-annual Martin's Way Farmers Market from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. In the past, the market has been a major attraction on campus, for which local farmers and artisans bring produce, crafts and natural sweets such as honey and maple syrup to stands on Martin's Way for students to purchase, bringing the goodness of the land inside the Hamilton bubble. "I'm excited for the Farmers Market," said Olivia Wolfgang-Smith '11, naming the event as her favorite.

One thing that will be missing from the Earth Day celebration is trays. Bon Appetit will be serving low-carbon meals at Commons and McEwen. Each station will be transformed to illustrate a key principle of reducing climate change. The celebration will showcase Bon Appetit's Low Carbon Diet Calculator in an attempt to make sure students understand the impact of their food choices.

Thursday and Friday promise not to disappoint, either. On Thursday, April 23, HEAG will show the movie "Radiant City" – a film on 21st century submarines – at 8:30 p.m. in the Kirner-Johnson Auditorium. On Friday, April 24, the week will conclude with the annual tree planting. This year's tree will be planted across the road from Eells Residence Hall by Physical Plant in the early afternoon; the exact time remains to be determined and will be affected by the weather.

Of course, Green Week is not meant to be just a one-week wonder. Ilse Zorb '11 pointed out, "Every week should be Green Week. I don't think it should be just a one-time thing." Nevertheless, beautiful weather never hurts when it comes to appreciating the environment. With spring on the Hill, there is no question nature will be decked out in long-forgotten splendor. The plethora of events during Green Week is an encouraging sign that Hamilton might be able to respond with a glorious showing of its own. Hopefully, the Green Week activities will instill habits and awareness that will last year round.

Autism Awareness Month: Caused by Vaccines?

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

Ask people what they know about autism, and eventually you'll get it: their eyebrows will turn up quizzically, trying not to offend, and their voices will rise as they ask, "Isn't it caused by vaccines?"

The controversy over whether vaccines play a role in causing autism is everywhere in the media today. *Time* magazine recently ran a front-page feature on it, and *Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report* and the *New York Times* have covered it repeatedly. But what does the issue boil down to? When did it start? And is there any scientific evidence supporting the idea that this devastating disorder is triggered by injections intended to prevent disease?

The original concern centered around the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine, a vaccine typically given in three injections between the ages of two and four. In some cases, all three injections are given together. The controversy has since expanded to other vaccines. In 1998, Andrew Wakefield, a Canadian-trained surgeon who began studying autism in 1995, led a study with 12 other researchers concerning a possible link between the MMR vaccine, a possible novel bowel disease, and autism. They published their results in the *Lancet*, an exclusive British medical journal. Eight of the 12 children in the study began experiencing autistic symptoms within two weeks of receiving the triple MMR vaccine. Although Wakefield and his colleagues stressed that their results did not prove causation, Wakefield suggested separating the injections by at least a year during a press conference.

Since that time, several other studies have shown some correlation between incidents of autism and vaccinations, especially MMR and injections, like many flu vaccines, containing an antibacterial agent called thermisol, which contains mercury. However, many other studies have shown no correlation, and, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, no study has been able to prove causation between any vaccine or set of vaccines.

Perhaps the most revealing study arguing against a connection between thermisol-containing vaccines and autism was begun in 2000, when state authorities lowered the amount of thermisol in flu vaccines in California significantly. By 2006, thermisol was banned from flu vaccines in California. However, despite these measures, the rate of autism in California has, up to this point, continued to climb at approximately the same rate as in the rest of the United States.

In June of 2007, a group of parents and advocacy groups took the case against vaccines to Federal claims court, suing the companies creating the

see ***Evidence****, page 17*

Evidence Supporting Vaccine Link is Limited

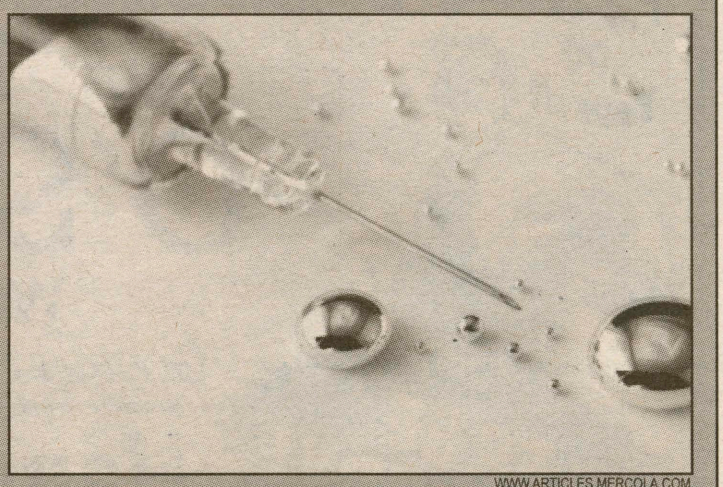
from ***Autism****, page 16*

for knowingly endangering the children receiving the vaccines. The case quickly merged with others across the country, becoming a massive suit. The court finally made its decision in Feb., 2009, ruling against the parents on the grounds that no link had been proven between the vaccines and the disorder.

It would seem, then, that there is no more than an incidental connection between vaccines and autism. Since autism is usually diagnosed between birth and the age of four, the same range in which vaccines are typically administered. This similarity would lead to the misunderstanding called "post hoc, ergo proctor hoc," which translates to "it happened after, therefore it happened because of." This line of reasoning hardly ever proves true.

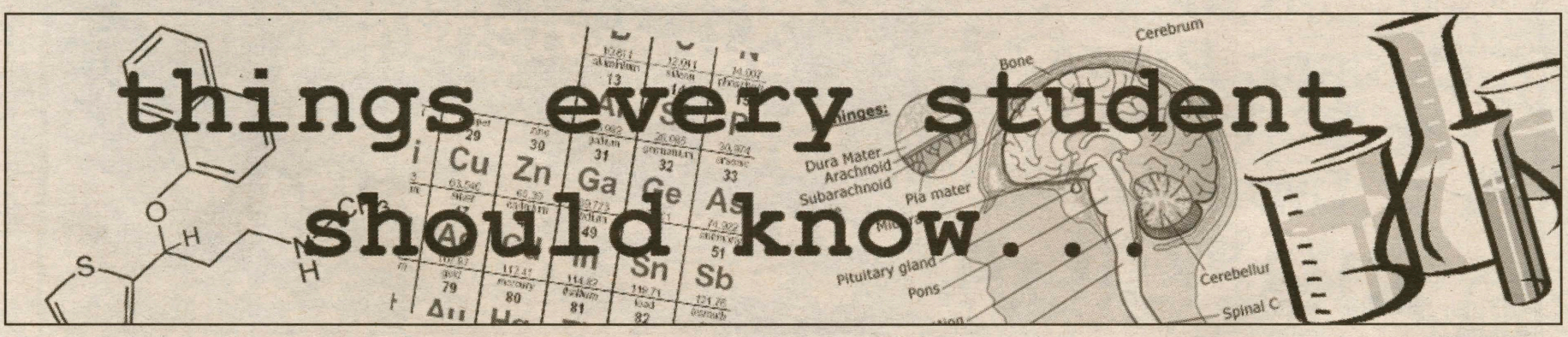
Today, most proponents of the autism-vaccine link do not claim that vaccines cause autism by themselves, but rather that the vaccine overloads the systems of children who are already at risk of autism. Unfortunately, current research has yet to find any strong causative links between autism and vaccine ingredients, either as causes or as triggers.

Nevertheless, it would be unwise for scientists to discount the idea of vaccines as causative factors for some cases of autism. Just because some ingredients in the vaccine might not cause autism, that doesn't guarantee that others might not be playing a role. Autism is a complicated disorder, and the vaccine-autism controversy is a multi-faceted issue. Vaccines are meant to protect people from disease. Even as scientists continue to look elsewhere for potential causes of autism, watchdog groups have sworn to make sure they do not ignore the dangers of potentially unwise vaccinations.



WWW.ARTICLES.MERCOLA.COM

Some groups claim vaccines containing thermisol or mercury could trigger autism. However, most evidence fails to show any correlation betweem the two.



This Week: How to Recognize Food Poisoning

by Jessica Carroll '12
Sci & Tech Lead Writer

Imagine this scenario. You go out for a nice dinner with your friends and order the same dish you get every time - a cheeseburger with fries. It is delicious, as usual, and you have a wonderful time with your friends celebrating whatever it is you happen to be celebrating. You get home and your stomach feels a little bit strange, but you chalk it up to the extra beer you drank after your friend bought another round for the table. You have some water and go to back bed, convinced that in the morning a slight hangover and a lighter wallet will be the only after effects of the previous night.

Morning comes, and by morning, I mean three in the morning. You rush to the bathroom and worship at the great white porcelain throne. Stumbling back to bed, you attribute the sickness to the beers. You must have had a few more than you thought, but oh well. You've had worse experiences after Bundy parties. Your stomach makes a few interesting noises, but nothing you haven't heard before.

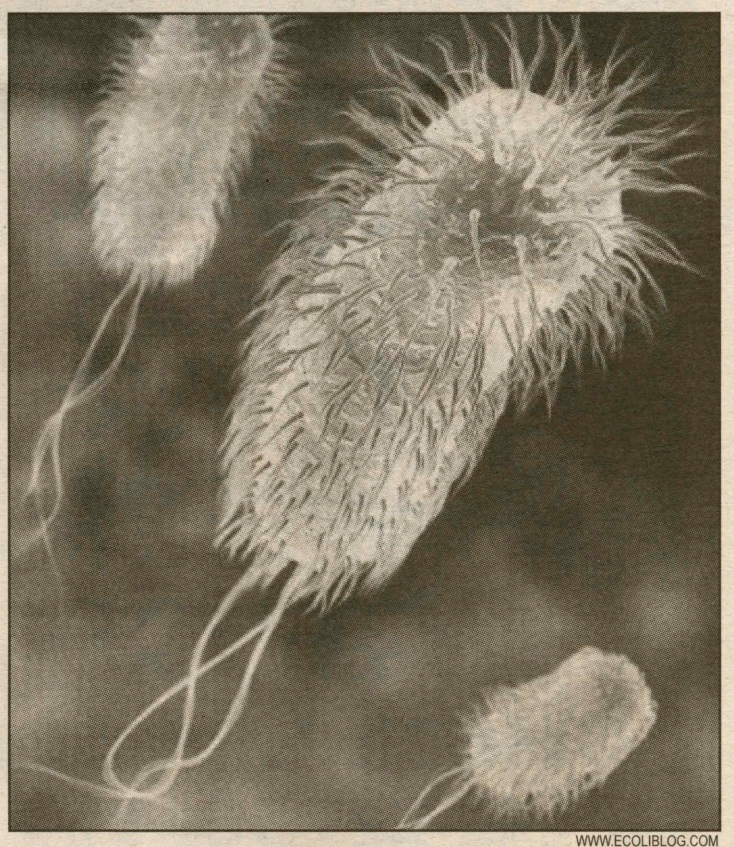
Morning comes, and this time the sun is actually up. You rush to the bathroom again and once again worship the great white porcelain throne, this time with your other end. While sitting, you slowly realize something. You must have food poisoning. Was it Commons last week? Why is it different this time?

Although the details may be different, chances are everybody has had a similar experience. Each year, food poisoning affects approximately one in three people in the United States, meaning each year, 76 million people receive the dubious honor of learning what food poisoning truly is. Calculated out, about two people are affected every second. Luckily, the symptoms can range from mild to severe, so the hypothetical scenario described here might not describe every victim's experience. It could easily be much less unpleasant, but could also be much worse.

There are many different microbes, bacteria, chemicals and parasites that can cause food poisoning. You can get poisoned by under-cooked meat, contaminated vegetables, poisonous mushrooms or anything harboring a particularly nasty bacteria. The symptoms (nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, dehydration, bloody stool and fevers with chills) usually start in the digestive tract, as that is where the pathogen is first absorbed. As one might imagine, these are undesirable, prompting Rebecca Williams '12 to comment, "It's not pleasant."

Indeed. And for many, it is deadly. Approximately five thousand people die each year because of food poisoning. Additionally, it is estimated that food poisoning causes over one billion dollars in medical costs and productivity losses from missed work each year.

As Claire Sayler '12, points out, "Nobody likes food poisoning, obviously." So what can be done? Who is to blame for this unpleasant epidemic that causes 325,000 hospitalizations a year? The uncomfortable answer is that nobody causes it. Food poisoning is unavoidable in our modern culture, but there are a few things that can be done to help prevent being poisoned. Although these tips may seem like common sense, they can make a very big difference in the long run.



WWW.ECOLIBLOG.COM

The *Escherichia coli* bacteria, commonly known as *E. coli*, is one of the common causes of food poisoning.

For example, keep cold foods cold - do not leave milk, cheese or yogurt out for long periods of time and then consume them. Make sure that foods are not expired - pay attention to the printed sell-by date on perishables and be cautious of items without expiration dates. Only buy foods in whole packages without any leaks or other damage to the packaging, even if the dented one is twenty cents cheaper. The extra money for a perfectly intact package is worth it in order to make sure you stay healthy.

Unfortunately, these methods are not perfect. They help to reduce the chances of food poisoning, but nothing can eliminate it. So don't blame Commons for that strange feeling in your abdomen. Just view it as an unfortunate fact of life. Be sure to stay hydrated and get enough sleep. No matter what, have sympathy for your friends because, as Sarah Fobes '12 said, "Yeah, that sucks."

The Green Tip of The Week

by James Beslity '11
Science & Technology Writer

One of the easiest ways to be environmentally conscious on campus is to conserve electricity. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs in lamps in your room: they last longer and use 50 – 80 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs. Also, unplug (don't just turn off) electronic devices when you're not using them, including microwaves, coffee makers, pencil sharpeners, cell phone chargers or anything else you might have plugged in. Though this may seem like it would only make a trivial difference, if everyone did so, much energy could be saved. For example, a plugged-in cell phone charger consumes .94 kWh over 9 months. This may not seem like much energy, but if you multiply it by the approximately 1,800 students at Hamilton (most of whom likely have cell phones), that's 1,701 kWh of wasted energy every academic year!

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SPORTS

HAMILTON SPORTS BY THE NUMBERS

Men's Baseball
vs. Ithaca College
April 14: Win (19-5)

Men's Tennis
vs. Union College
April 14: Win (7-2)

Women's Tennis
vs. Colgate University
April 14: Loss (6-1)

Hamilton Golf
@ Skidmore
April 12-13: 2nd Place

Softball
vs. Rensselaer
April 13 Loss (4-17)

Men's Crew
@ St. Lawrence Regatta
April 11: Varsity Eight-
3rd Place

Women's Crew
@ St. Lawrence Regatta
April 11: Novice Four-
Second Place

Men's Baseball
vs. Amherst
April 11: Loss (8-1)

Women's Lacrosse
vs. William Smith
April 10: Win (8-7)

For Hamilton Sports Schedules, please visit www.events.hamilton.edu

Athlete of the Week: Anne Graveley '11

by Abby Perer '09
Sports Writer

Age: 20

Hometown: Queensbury, NY

Sport: Lacrosse

Claim to Fame: In Friday's game against William Smith, Graveley scored the game-winning goal with six seconds remaining in overtime. It was William Smith's first loss in the Liberty League, in which Hamilton maintains a perfect record.

Proudest Lacrosse Moment: Winning the 2008 NCAA Division III National Lacrosse Championship.

Most Embarrassing Moment: In high school, during a game against her school's rival team, Graveley was running down the field towards the goal and her skirt fell off. Luckily, she redeemed herself when she managed to the pass the ball to a teammate who then scored a goal.

Favorite Pro Athlete: Brandi Chastain.

Favorite Sports Movie: *Space Jam.*

Next Game: Wednesday, April 15, 4:30 p. m., at Ithaca.

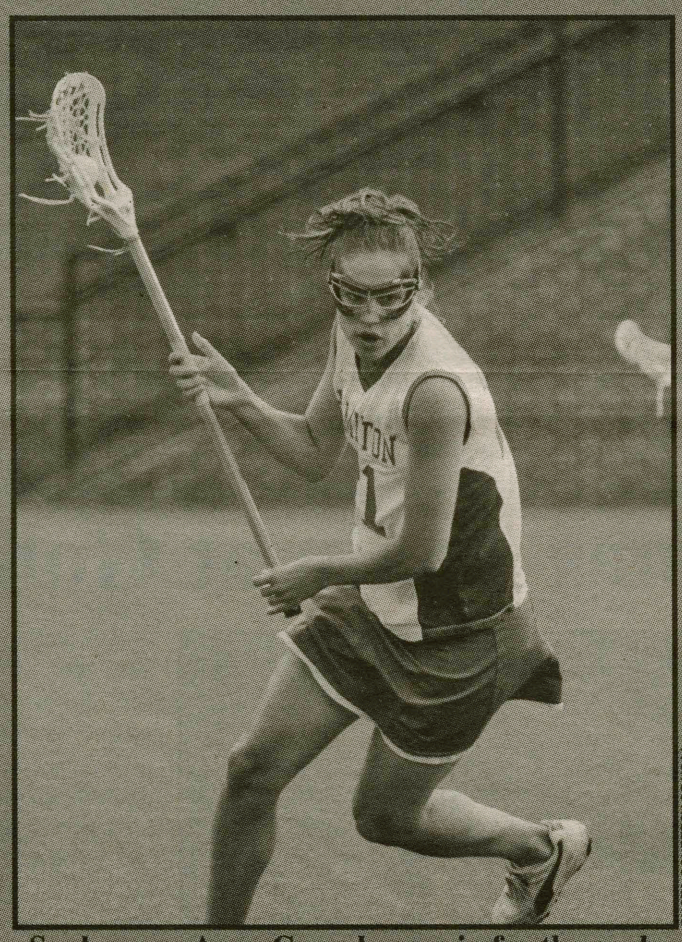


PHOTO COURTESY OF NCAA

Sophomore Anne Gravely goes in for the goal.

Top 11 Gym Encounters

According to the professional opinion of Daniel Greenberg '12

1. The Professor wearing khakis/shorts-shorts and inappropriately unathletic clothing (WARNING!!! - May Contain Hairy Everything)

2. The Under Armour wearing skinny gym-rat.

3. The bootylicious elliptical hot chick wearing scandalously and suffocatingly tight clothing

4. The unbootylicous elliptical not hot chick who shouldn't be wearing tight clothing.

5. The unresponsive iPod listener who will not wave back at you no matter how hard you try.

6. The obnoxiously heavy breather on the treadmill whom you want to trip.

7. The Skeletor-esque girls hogging the stairmasters.

8. The freakishly-jacked grunter with way too much creatine and backne.

9. The one random old guy creepishly gazing at supple freshman girls.

10. The guy with nasty B.O. sucking down all the water from the water fountain while you wait angrily behind him.

11. The exercise bike sitting blob doing all his work while limply moving one leg.

Confessions of a Michigan State Fan: UNC Deserved It

by Tim Shaw '10
Sports Columnist

Now that the dust has settled from North Carolina's convincing win against Michigan State in the 2009 National Championship game, the burning question in sports journalism and casual conversations has become "Are they the best college basketball team ever?" Putting aside the fact that I am a Michigan State fan, I have to admit it is hard to answer this question with a "no."

Why is it so hard to say that there are other teams better than this year's team? It starts with the fact that they won every game of their tournament run in convincing fashion. During the tournament they won each game by no less than 12 points (Oklahoma in the Regional Final). We can also look at their four losses during the regular season. Each loss was against an NCAA tournament team, with only one loss (Boston College) coming at home. Another loss was in the ACC Conference Tournament against Florida St. without Ty Lawson, a pretty big piece of their team.

Another reason to argue for their immortality is that their scoring could come from anywhere on the court. The number of weapons on the 2009 North Carolina team is pretty impressive. Their five starters (Tyler Hansbrough, Lawson, Danny Green, Wayne Ellington and Deon Thompson) all average double figures in points.

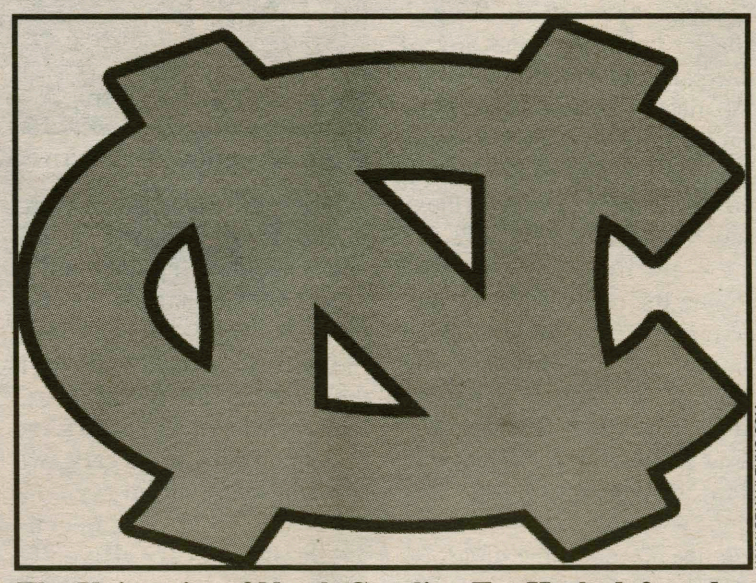
From this, it is also hard to argue against this team because it is loaded with NBA prospects. Not only is each one of their starters in a position to be drafted, but their sixth man, freshman Ed Davis, was projected as a top five lottery pick before he decided to return to school. Another freshman who was injured all season, Tyler Zeller, is expected to eventually reach the big leagues. too.

These are all compelling arguments, but every argument has its counterpoint. Some critics may argue that their home loss to Boston College proves their mortality and that the double digit averages are skewed because of their high-paced offense. More importantly, some argue that they cannot be the best ever because they were unable to win multiple championships with virtually the same team they have had for the past three seasons.

On a more personal level, I am hesitant about proclaiming this team as the best ever given a personal vendetta against the aforementioned Tyler "Psycho-T" Hansbrough. Don't get me wrong, he is an amazing player. You don't become the ACC's all-time leading scorer without being exceptional. My problem with Tyler lies not in his floor skills, but more in the publicity he receives from sportscasters—every single one of them. If they would end their exaggerated praise for one second and understand that we all realize he is a good player, I might actually enjoy watching him play. I apologize to his supporters - but there is just something about the never-ending compliments that Hansbrough receives (coupled with the fact that he has the "deer-in-headlights look" all the time) that frankly makes me want to harm someone or hurt something.

With that off my chest, I realize it is immature to judge an entire team based on the media's depiction of one player, and I must say that North Carolina is one of the best teams assembled in the history of the NCAA.

Regardless of how you look at the 2009 North Carolina team, given the way they walked through each round of the tournament and won with the support of a plethora of future NBA players, you cannot question they were the best team of 2009 and should be considered as one of the best teams of all time, if not the best.



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The University of North Carolina Tar Heels defeated Michigan State in the 2009 NCAA Finals to become National Champions.

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SPECTATOR SPORTS

April 16, 2009

Men's Tennis Picks Up Speed After Rough Start

by Daniel Hagemeier '11
Sports Editor

The Hamilton men's tennis team had a rough start this season but managed to pick up speed during the last few matches. Coach McKee's team started the season with six straight losses (not counting a win against Le Moyne College in September of last year) before winning three out of their last four matches. With only four matches left in the season, however, it will be hard to avoid a losing record. The team would have to win all of its final four matches, all against NESCAC competitors.

"Our goal at the beginning of the season was two NESCAC wins", says team captain Henry Ciocca '09. "Beating Wesleyan and Connecticut College would satisfy that goal and would push us in the right direction towards rebuilding our program."

Asked about his evaluation about the season so far, Ciocca said that "the team has rallied around a difficult situation so far and everyone has really come together." Just shortly before the spring season started, coach Mark Dolan unexpectedly quit his job, leaving new head coach Joshua McKee not much time to fully prepare his team for the season.

"McKee has done a great job thus far," said Ciocca. He underlined that "the team has shown tremendous character to 'go on with the show' and keep playing despite the adversity."

The start of the season was not exactly smooth. On March 17, the team lost at Northwood University 2-7. The two following matches were lost 1-8 each. Mark Segal '09 in the singles and the duo Peter Erwin '11 and Mike Moreno '11 won their matches against Northwood, while Drew Libin '12 and the duo Coby Berman '12/Libin pulled off the wins against St. Thomas University and Palm Beach Atlantic University, respectively.

In their home opener on April 1, the team barely missed their first win, losing 4-5 after having won four of six singles. The following matches against NESCAC rivals Colby and Tufts were lost 3-6 and 2-7.

"The problem is that we play in the best Division III tennis conference in the country, the NESCAC," says Ciocca. "Seven out of the eleven teams are ranked top 30 in all of Division III. However, we had some very good success in Liberty League matches."

Indeed, Hamilton could win against Hobart College and Rensselaer, both times with impressive 9-0 victories. After losing their second home game against Amherst 1-8, the team also pulled off their first home win on April 14, beating visiting Union College 7-2 on the Gray Tennis Courts.

"Our ultimate goal is to compete at the highest level of NESCAC," stated Ciocca. "This will take time and effort in order to bring some highly-ranked high school players into Hamilton. We also need to continue to work hard every day to improve. This work ethic is vital to the success of our team. Right now, we cannot afford to be outworked."

The men's tennis team will need to gather all their strength to reach their goals for this season. The team will play at Wesleyan and Connecticut and has two more home matches against Bates and Williams in the season finale. The respect for the four remaining opponents is big but the goals of winning two games against direct NESCAC opponents should be motivation enough to keep the momentum to continue the team's current success.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE MORENO '11

Peter Erwin '11 and Mike Moreno '11 in game action.

Track and Field Shines Again at Golden Spikes

by James Russell '10 and Scott Bickard '11
Sports columnists

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES RUSSELL '09

Kate Greenough '09 and Keith Gross '09 have been outstanding.

Track and field is not a sport. For just writing that line, we know we've hit on a sore topic for all those track-letes with chips on their shoulders. But it's not a sport. It is something more and something less. It is absolute, 100 percent, competition. If competition were a drug, track would be the definition of purity, with sports like basketball, football and baseball containing impurities of "game," "basketball hoops," "bats," "referees" and any of the many objects of distraction. "It goes all the way back to the ancient Greeks," Dan Keating '10 said. "Who can run fastest, throw furthest, jump furthest, and jump highest? That's it."

Hamilton College was among the many schools competing ancient Greek style on Saturday at Roberts Wesleyan College, a Division II institution located in Rochester. The test began early. Ten K-ers Will Reid '10 and James Russell '09, along with pole vaulter Rebecca Yuguda '09 and Javelin throwers Dylan Palmer '09 and James Hansel '10 left on the 6 a.m. Jitney for the earliest scheduled events of the day. With temperatures in the mid 30s and 15 mph winds, the throwing and vaulting events became mostly a battle for place and less for distance. In the 10K, taking 25 hits from the wind didn't stop Will "Bass" Reid from having himself a fine 32:54 morning run (That's two sub 16:30 5ks). Reid even got the "nod" from a competing coach after the race. If you've ever had an outstanding performance in anything, you know the implications of receiving this gesture from an unknown competing coach: respect.

Peter Kosgei '10 took a break from chasing steeples and instead had people chase him during his victories in the 1500m (4:00 min.) and 800m (1:54 min.). Both times were far from PRs. But Kosgei was saving himself for the Penn Relays next Thursday, where he'll compete in the steeple chase. "I'm bringing my A game," Kosgei said. In fact, he will not compete this Saturday to give him an extra edge. In case you don't remember, last year's Penn Relays marked one of only two races Kosgei has ever lost, even though he ran perhaps the best race of his career (8:43 in the steeple chase). He'll be one of the only Division III runners in one of the most competitive college invitational's in the country. Regardless, Kosgei should still be counted as the favorite based on last year's experience and his obvious improvement.

Also running the men's 800m, Cam Gaylord '09 just ducked under the NESCAC qualifying time of 2:02.3 to run a 2:02.22. James Grebey '12 made his 1500m debut in 4:12, with Garret Armbruster '10 (4:14) and Peter Woodruff '09 (4:15) just off the tall first year's pace. Greg Fullman '09 continued to establish himself as one of the top 400m hurdlers around with his second place finish. It should be interesting to see how he fares against top competition in the weeks ahead. Joshua Orndorff '11 will also be looking to the weeks ahead to finally break the 14m distance in the shot. However, his 13.8m throw on Saturday should keep him satisfied for one more week. In the men's 200m dash, J. P. "P. J." Traylor '10 had to wait until the end of the day to run his race but still managed to break into the 23s (23.95). Traylor called it a "doctor's race," because he's "been to the 23s before, but not recently."

On the women's side of things, Meredith Fitz '11 destroyed last week's time with a 4:57, 5th place 1500m. 5K couple Gen Flanders '09 and Abby Jones '09 were at it again on Saturday with 2nd and 3rd place finishes. We've spoken of Flanders's edge in previous articles, but some ink should go to Jones, who's been looking strong in recent weeks.

Notes: Tidelco Ductan '09 did not compete and is listed as probable for Saturday. Akilah Bond '09 is also listed as probable. James Russell did not compete, but is a definite for this Saturday. Hamilton will compete at home this weekend.